

YUKI SUETSUGU

Chihayafuru

ONE

Chihayaburu



YUKI SUETSUGU

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VERSE 1

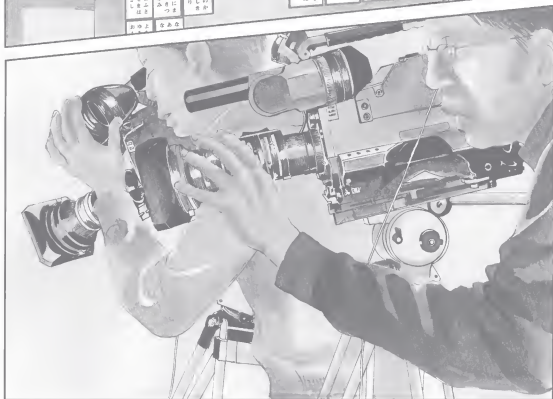
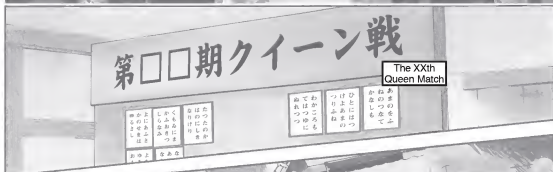
Chihayafuru





かるた祭

Karuta
Festival



Special assistance from: All Japan Karuta Association, Ohishi-Tengudo Corporation, Omi Shrine

PLEASE.



NO ONE
BREATHE.



SIX
YEARS
EARLIER.
TOKYO.

BEFORE
I KNEW
WHAT
PASSION
WAS.

HIGH-RISE,
FROM THE TOP:

3002, 3004,
3007, 2902,
2903, 2906,
2907, 2908,
2801, 2802,
2805, 2807,
2809, 2810,
2701, 2705,
2602, 2603.

BLOCK 2-5:
FUJIWARA,
TANAKA, IHARA,
HAYASHI.
FIVE ON THE
OPPOSITE SIDE:
OHSAWA,
FUJIMIYA,
YAMAMOTO,
AYASE.

MR. UCHIYAMA
STOPPED DELIVERY.
YOKOTA CO-OP
101: 103, 202, 203, 204.
TWO NEXT DOOR:
KAWAGUCHI,
NAGANO.

I
ALREADY
MEMO-
RIZED
IT.

HEY,
ARATA-
KUN.
YOU
FORGOT
YOUR
ROUTE
LIST.

YOU
GOTTA
CHECK
YOUR
DELIVERIES
AGAINST
THIS...

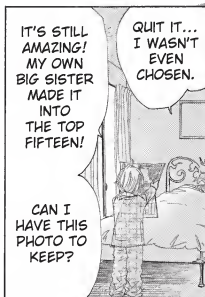
YA LIAR!
THERE'S
TWO
HUNDRED
HOMES IN
HERE!

YOU
BETTER
NOT
MESS UP
ANY OF
YOUR
DELIVER-
IES!

THERE'S NO
WAY YOU
COULD'VE
MEMORIZED
'EM ALL!

AYASE
NEXT...





IT'S STILL AMAZING!
MY OWN BIG SISTER
MADE IT
INTO THE TOP
FIFTEEN!

CAN I
HAVE THIS
PHOTO TO
KEEP?



QUIT IT...
I WASN'T
EVEN
CHOSEN.



SEE,
RIGHT
HERE!

Young
Miss Japan
Crowned

日本
美少女
コンテスト
13歳

Thirteen-
year-old wins



...DOES HAVE A
BETTER BODY!

Most 456s in
baseball history

Daily
Sports

BUT I HAVE
TO ADMIT,
THE GIRL
WHO WON...

4 Teams / Cry



I SAW
THE NEWS-
PAPER,
CHI-CHAN!

GOOD
MORN-
ING,
CHI-
HAYA-
CHAN!

YEAH!

YOUR
SISTER'S
AMAZING!

YEAH,
SHE
REALLY
IS!

YOU'LL
GET
WET!



I'M
ALWAYS
PROUD
OF HOW
BEAUTIFUL
SHE IS.



URK

THUNK



YOU
KNOW,
YOU
NEED TO
LEARN TO
THINK
BEFORE
YOU
SPEAK!

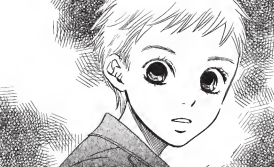
MY
EASILY-
ANGERED
SISTER
IS A
YEAR
OLDER
THAN ME.

か
9 KLUNK

SOMEONE
IN CLASS
2 SAID
THEY
SAW
HIM.

НУН?

Wataya's Sayings
 - Hoy > Hey
 - Yerp > Yep
 - Sterbin > No idea
 - Less > Let's
 - Cold fever > ??



OH,
REALLY?

N-NO, LIM ...
THAT'S
NOT WHAT
WE WERE
TRYING
TO DO...

SOR-
RY
THEN.

RIGHT
?

PLEASE
TAKE
YOUR
SEATS.

CHATTER

ONCE
YOU LEARN
ALL ONE
HUNDRED,
COME TO ME
TO TAKE
THE TEST.

IF YOU
PASS,
YOU'LL GET
TO COMPETE
IN NEXT
MONTH'S
KARUTA
TOURNA-
MENT.

I WONDER,
THOUGH...

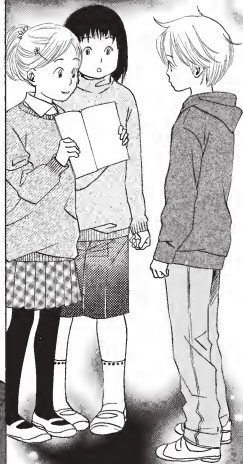
CHATTER

THAT'S
IM-
POSSI-
BLE!

I'VE
ONLY
GOT
TWENTY
SO FAR!

CHATTER

IF I
WAS
WATA-
YA-
KUN,
I DON'T
THINK I'D
WANT TO
TALK TO
SOMEONE
TAKING NOTES
JUST SO
THEY COULD
LAUGH AT ME.



WELL, MASHIMA-KUN CAN DO EVERYTHING!

高々 SMIRK

YOU SHOULD ENTER, MASHIMA-KUN!

YOU'VE ALREADY MEMORIZED ALL OF THEM, HAVEN'T YOU?

THE PRIZE IS A BOOKSTORE GIFT CERTIFICATE.

LET'S BEAT CLASS 2, OKAY?

I WONDER.

I'VE SEEN HIM BEFORE.

BUT WHERE...

AL-READY?!

IT'S NOT JUST MASHIMA-KUN!

LET'S GIVE HIM A ROUND OF APPLAUSE!

パチ
CLAP
パチ
CLAP
パチ

...AND HE PASSED BY RECITING ALL ONE HUNDRED IN A ROW!

WATAYA-KUN CAME TO ME AFTER CLASS YESTERDAY TO TAKE THE TEST...

HE WAS DELIVERING NEWS-PAPERS!

OH!

WOOA-

臥龍感
Hyakunin Isshu Memorization Card

ALL OF THEM IN A ROW?

WOW.

REALLY?

WHAT
...?

CHAT-
TER

IS
THAT
TRUE,
WATA-
YA-
KUN?

WA-
TAYA-
KUN, YOU
WERE
DELIVERING
NEWSPA-
PERS THIS
MORNING,
WEREN'T
YOU!

THAT'S
RIGHT,
THAT'S
RIGHT!
NOW I
REMEM-
BER!

HUH

...?

ONLY
WHEN
I'M
ASKED
...

UHM...
SOME-
TIMES.

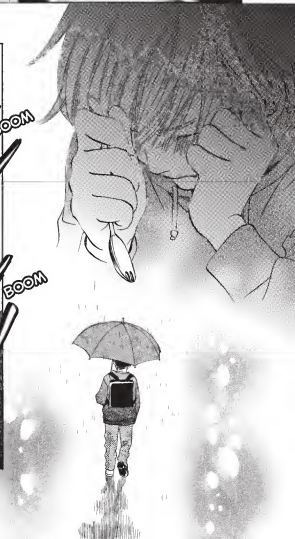
DO YOU
DO THAT
EVERY
DAY?

ELEMEN-
TARY
SCHOOL
STU-
DENTS
AREN'T
SUP-
POSED
TO BE
WORKING.

JUST
SOME-
TIMES...

DOESN'T HE
WEAR THE
SAME PANTS
EVERY DAY?

HEY, YA
KNOW.



TAICHI!

I NEVER
IMAGINED
YOU WERE
THIS MUCH
OF A
COWARDLY
JERK!

WHAT
WAS
THAT
FOR,
CHIIHA-
YA?!

ARE YOU
TAKING
THIS
HICK'S
SIDE?!

OWWWW...

WHA...

THUNK
ドコッ

I REALLY
WILL, YOU
KNOW! YOU'RE
GONNA BE
SUPER SAD
WITHOUT
ANY FRIENDS
!

I
SAID
I
DON'T
CARE!

FINE,
THEN
DO IT!

IF YOU'RE
GONNA STICK
UP FOR HIM,
YOU'RE
GETTING LEFT
OUT TOMOR-
ROW TOO!

SO
YOU'RE
NOT ON
MY SIDE
AFTER
ALL?



YOU'LL
REGRET
THIS!

DON'T
COME
CRYING
TO ME
LATER!



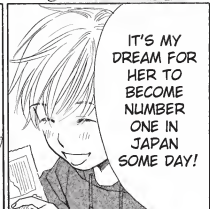


HE
TALKED.



WHY'D JA
GRAB...

...THE
PAPER
THIS
MORN-
ING...?



IT'S MY
DREAM FOR
HER TO
BECOME
NUMBER
ONE IN
JAPAN
SOME DAY!



MY BIG
SISTER WAS
IN A BEAUTY
PAGEANT AND
I COULDN'T
WAIT TO READ
THE ARTICLE!

HE
TALK-
ED!!

LOOK,
RIGHT HERE!
MY SISTER'S
IN THE BACK!



HUH?



Y'CAN'T CALL
THAT NO
DREAM.



YOUR
DREAMS
HAVE GOTTA
ABOUT'CHER-
SELF.



ISN'T SHE
BEAUTIFUL?
ISN'T IT
AMAZING?

HUHH...
WOW.



THEN
WHAT'S
YOUR
DREAM,
WATAYA-
KUN?!

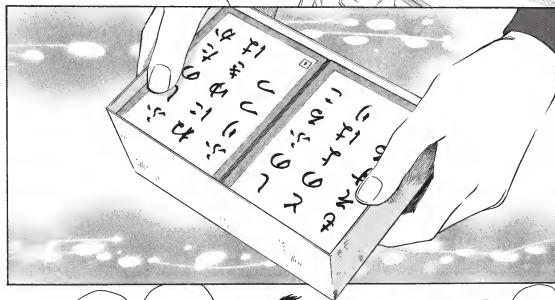
WH-
WHAT'S
THAT
SUP-
POSED
TO MEAN
?!

DON'T GO
CLIMBIN'
ON HER.



DO YOU
HAVE A
DREAM?!

THINKA
YOUR
POOR
SISSER.



OUR
WHOLE
SCHOOL
HAS A
TOURNAMENT
EVERY
YEAR.

starting in
fourth grade.

DO I
KNOW
HOW?

KNOW
HOW'TA
PLAY,
AYASE-
SAN?



HEY,
AREN'T
THESE
HYAKUNIN
ISSHU
CARDS?

...?



HUH?
Tapes?
Still?



WHO'S GOING TO
READ THEM
OUT?

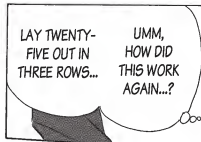
UM,
SURE.
BUT...

LEMME
GET MY
TAPES!



L...

LES'
PLAY!



LAY TWENTY-
FIVE OUT IN
THREE ROWS...

UMM,
HOW DID
THIS WORK
AGAIN...?



WHY'S HE
GETTING
SO EXCITED
ABOUT THIS?

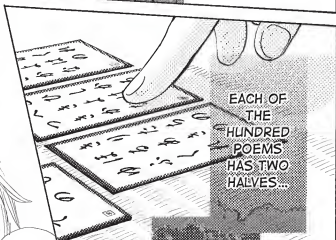
YOU HAVE TO
TAKE THE
CARD THAT
CORRESPONDS
TO THE FIRST
HALF THAT
GETS READ
OUT.

GLANCE
↑

THAT'S
ALL
IT IS—

WELL,
IT'S JUST
KARUTA.

I ONLY
REMEMBER
ABOUT FIFTY
OF THEM,
BUT...



EACH OF
THE
HUNDRED
POEMS
HAS TWO
HALVES...

...AND YOU
LAY OUT THE
TORIFUDA
CARDS THAT
ONLY HAVE
THE SECOND
HALF PRINTED
ON THEM.



HUH?

ALL
READY?

UH,

YEAH.

Arashi fuku—
(The stormy winds
of Mamaru—)

HIS
EYES
—
WHY
ARE
THEY
...

*Tatsuta no kawa no
nishiki narikeri*

(The Tatsuta flows like fine
brocade / Where the colored
leaves have flown!)

な
は
た
つ
た
の
く
わ
の
に
し
き
な
り
け
り

WHAK



I-IS
THIS...

BAM

...HOW
KARUTA
GOES?!

*Nagarae
ba-*

(The grief-
filled days of
long ago-)

SMACK

WH-

WHOA!

AW
SHUCKS. IT
FLEW
!

'NOTHER
ONE.

THE
CARD
JUST
FLEW!

HE'S
FAST!

HE'S
FAST.

AGH.

JUST
THAT
ONE
CARD—

JERK

IF I CAN
GET THAT
ONE...

I KNOW
THE FIRST
HALF OF
THAT ONE.

GLENCH

THIS
IS SO
FRUS-
TRAT-
ING.

I WANT
TO
GET AT
LEAST
ONE!

IT'S "SEO
HAYAMI IWA
NI SEKARU-
RU TAKIGA-
WA NO."

(A mighty boulder in a
stream / Divides the
foaming flow)

Warete mo
sue ni awan
to zo omon
(But, reunited, on
it goes, / And so
will we, I know.)



!!

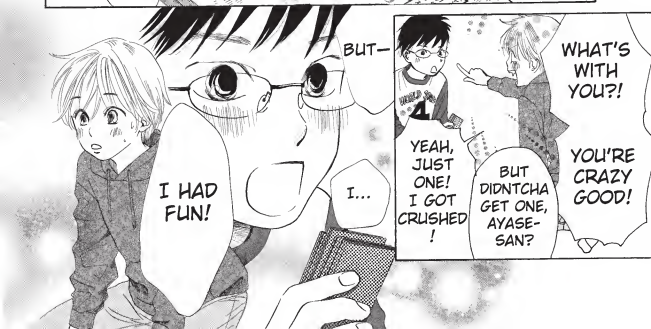
Se-

BAM

Warete mo sue ni
awan to zo onon
(But, resumed, on it goes,
And so will we, I know)

THANK YOU
VERY MUCH.

VICTORY BY
24 CARDS



BUT-

WHAT'S
WITH
YOU?!

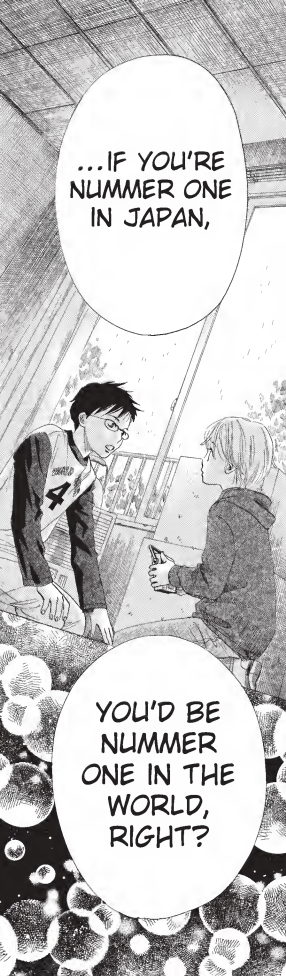
I HAD
FUN!

I...

YEAH,
JUST
ONE!
I GOT
CRUSHED
!

BUT
DIDNTCHA
GET ONE,
AYASE-
SAN?

YOU'RE
CRAZY
GOOD!



...IF YOU'RE
NUMMER ONE
IN JAPAN,

YOU'D BE
NUMMER
ONE IN THE
WORLD,
RIGHT?



I'VE
ALWAYS
BEEN
PLAYIN'
ALONE...

WE
PLAYED
TOGETH-
ER LOTS
BACK IN
FUKUI.

ALONE
?!

WHILE
YOU
LISTEN
TO
TAPES?

BUT I
CAN'T
REALLY
HERE'N
TOKYO.



KARUTA
INNT TOO
POPULAR
IN OTH-
ER COUN-
TRIES...

GUESS
IT'S
TOUGH.

BUT
THAT
MEANS...

DREAMS

...



A
MASTER
?

MY
DREAM'S...



...TO
BECOME
A KARUTA
MASTER.

NUMBER
ONE
IN THE
WORLD?

HUH?

CHI-
HAYA...

LOOKIT
HERE.

IT'S A
GOOD NAME,
Y'KNOW.



DREAMS,
HUH...?

'MORN-
ING!

GOOD
MORN-
ING!

YOU'RE
GETTING
LEFT OUT
TOMOR-
ROW
TOO!

GOOD
MORN...

YOU KNOW,
IF YOU STOP
TALKING TO
THAT
OUTSID-
ER...

...I'D BE
WILLING TO
LET YOU
BACK INTO
THE CLASS.

カタ
KLUNK

...

WHERE'S
MY
DESK...?

HUH?

WE ALL
DECIDED
AS A CLASS
TO NOT LET
HIM IN!

WHAT'S
YOUR
DEAL,
CHIHAYA?

KLUNK
ガ
ク

DON'T
WORRY
ABOUT
ME.

BUT LET
WATAYA-
KUN IN,
TAICHI.

HE'S A WIMP,
HE'S POOR,
AND HE'S A
HICK!

IT—
IT'S
FINE,
AYASE-
SAN!

BUT—

IT'S
FINE...

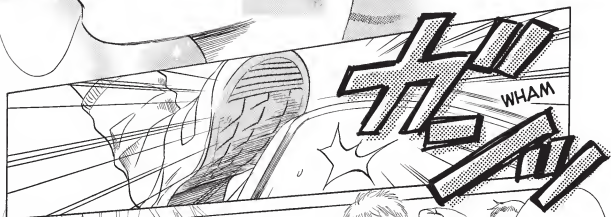
WATAYA-
KUN
COULD
BEAT
ANYONE
HERE IN
KARUTA!

I
WON'T
LET-
CHA...

...GET
A
SIN-
GLE
ONE.

I...

ISN'T THAT
RIGHT?!



IT WAS
AN
ABSURD
BET,
BUT...

...IT
FELT
GOOD.

IF I GET A
SINGLE CARD
OFF YOU,
FORGET ABOUT
ANYONE TALKING
TO YOU UNTIL
GRADUATION!

OH
YEAH?!

THEN
IT'S ON!

東大里小学校かるた大会

East Ohsato Elementary
Karuta Tournament

THERE'S
NOTHING
I HAVE
WHERE I
COULD
CONFIDENTLY
SAY...

...THAT
NO ONE IN
SCHOOL CAN
BEAT ME.

BAM

BAM

BAM

*Yukue no shiranu
koi no michi kana*
(Is this the path my love
will take...? [Hesitating I
know not where?])

*Yura-
notoo-*
(Rudderless
crossing
the Yura
Straits)

CHATTER
ちわ

DID YOU
KNOW
ABOUT
THIS,
CHI-
CHAN?

CHATTER
ちわ

Hey!

WOW,
WATAYA-
KUN'S
PRETTY
AMAZING!

CHATTER
ちわ

NO,
THERE'S
NO WAY
HE...

THAT BOY
MUST BE
CHEATING
SOMEHOW!

I
COULDN'T
GET A
SINGLE
ONE!

WHAT'S
GOING
ON
HERE?

IT'S
TRUE.

WHOA,
HE GOT
ANOTHER
ONE!

SMACK

NO
ONE AT
SCHOOL
CAN BEAT
HIM.

SMACK

Su-



CHATTER
I ALWAYS
THOUGHT
HE
SEEMED
SMART.

WOW!

WATAYA-
KUN'S
AWE-SOME.

WOAH

...AD-
VANCES
TO THE
FINALS.

YEAR
6,
CLASS 1.
ARATA
WATAYA-
KUN...

CHATTER
DOESN'T
IT SEEM LIKE
HE'S GOING
TO GET EVERY
CARD THIS
TOURNAM-
ENT?

I HEAR
SHE'S
EVEN
COME TO
WATCH
TODAY!

HIS
FATHER'S
A DOCTOR,
AND HIS
MOTHER'S
SUPER
STRICT.

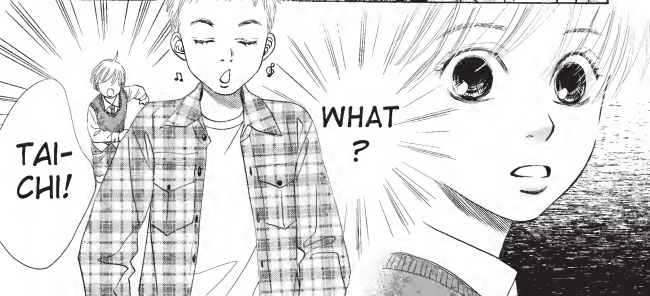
IT'S FINE.
MASHIMA
CAN DO
JUST ABOUT
ANYTHING.

I
WONDER
IF MASHI-
MA-KUN
WILL
BE AL-
RIGHT.

I'M SURE
HE'LL BE
ABLE TO GET
AT LEAST
ONE!









WHY WOULD I?

Yeah

I'VE BEEN AROUND HERE THE RIGHT? WHOLE TIME, RIGHT?



TAICHI.

DO YOU KNOW WHERE WATAYA-KUN'S GLASSES ARE?

WHAT DO YOU WANT, CHI-HAYA? YOU TRAITOR.



WOW, I NEVER KNEW YOU WERE ONE OF THOSE COOL GUYS WHO WORE FAKE GLASSES.



OH, WATAYA. SO YOU'RE FINE WITHOUT YOUR GLASSES?

THE KARUTA TOURNAMENT GATHER PLEASE FINALS ARE IN THE NOW BEGINNING. ATHLETIC HALL.



SO JUST WAIT.

I PROMISE I'LL FIND YOUR GLASSES!



Uncorrected eyesight: 20/600



YOU TWO ARE THE FINALISTS, RIGHT?

COME THIS WAY.



TAICHI IS NARROW-MINDED...

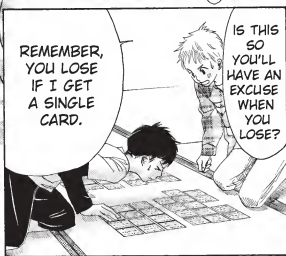
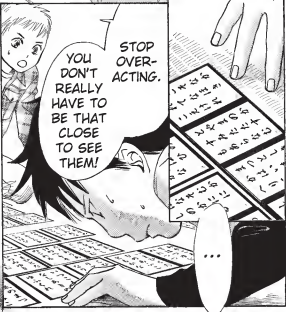
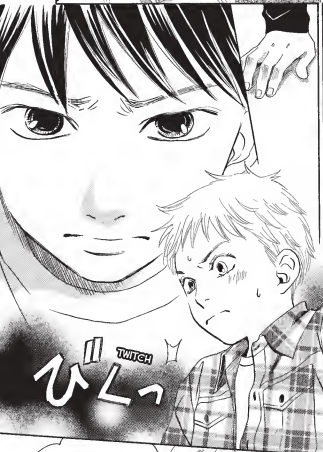
...BUT HE'S NOT THAT MEAN OF A PERSON.

And that's not me

I THINK MASHIMA HID MY GLASSES AFTER ALL...

AYA-SE-SAN ...







WOW

THAT
WAS
FAST!

WHOA!



!

Yama
gawa ni
(Blown by
the autumn
wind)

Kaze no
kaketaru
shigarami
wa—

(The leaves have
settled here.)



BAM

Misebaya
na

(The salt-soaked
sleeves of
fishermen)

WHAT'S
WITH
HIM?!
I THOUGHT
HE CAN'T
SEE
ANYTHING!



DAM-
MIT...



BAM

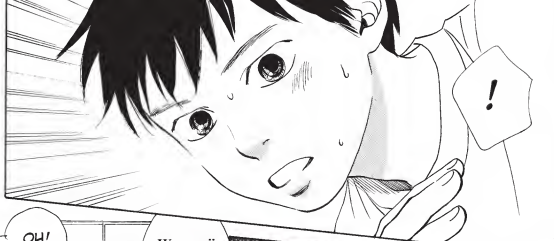
THAT'S
THE
WRONG
CARD,
WATAYA-
KUN.

OH.

HE KNOWS
WHERE
EVERY CARD
WAS AT THE
BEGINNING.

HE
ALREADY
HAS IT
MEMO-
RIZED.

NO.



Wasureji
no yukusue
made wa
katakereba

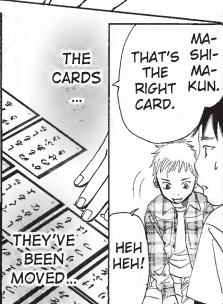
(I will never
forget you!" /
Well, that is
what they say.)



NICE
JOB,
MASHI-
MA!

TIME FOR
YOU TO
SHOW HIM
WHAT YOU
CAN DO!

I
CAN'T
SEE—



I
CAN'T
SEE
THEM.



YOU CAN DO IT, MA-SHIMA!

AND HE THOUGHT HE COULD BRAG ABOUT HOW GOOD HE IS AT KARUTA.

IS WATAYA THAT DESPERATE FOR A GIFT CARD?

LAME.

BE QUIET, YOU TWO!

YOU CAN DO IT, MA-SHIMA!

AND HE THOUGHT HE COULD BRAG ABOUT HOW GOOD HE IS AT KARUTA.

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LAME.

BE QUIET, YOU TWO!

YOU'RE
FREE
TO MAKE
FRIENDS
IN
TOKYO...

TEACHER!

YOU'RE
FREE
TO MAKE
FRIENDS
IN
TOKYO...

TEACHER!

YOU'RE
FREE
TO MAKE
FRIENDS
IN
TOKYO...

TEACHER!

GET THAT OUT-SIDER!

GODFREY

GET THAT OUT-SIDER!

すげー squeeze

"ARATA."

YOU'RE FREE TO MAKE FRIENDS IN TOKYO, JUST KEEP ON PLAYING KARUTA."

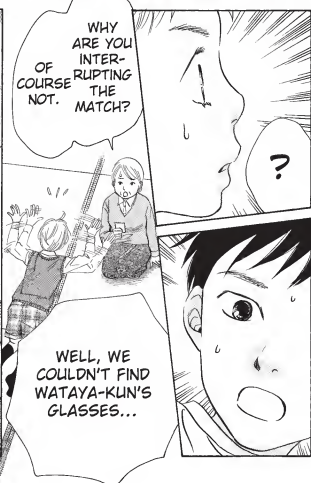
"YOUR GRANDPA'S WATCHIN' OVERYOU."

**"YOU'RE FREE
TO MAKE
FRIENDS
IN TOKYO.
JUST KEEP
ON PLAYING
KARUTA."**

**"YOUR
GRANDPA'S
WATCHIN'
OVER YOU."**

**"YOU'RE FREE
TO MAKE
FRIENDS
IN TOKYO.
JUST KEEP
ON PLAYING
KARUTA."**

**"YOUR
GRANDPA'S
WATCHIN'
OVER YOU."**



I'M GOING TO
BEAT HIM IN
WATAYA-KUN'S
PLACE!

WHAT
...?

WELL, I DO
UNDERSTAND
HOW HE'D HAVE
TROUBLE
WITHOUT HIS
GLASSES,
BUT...

AND
CHIHAYA'S
DEFINITELY
WORSE
THAN HIM,
ANYWAY.

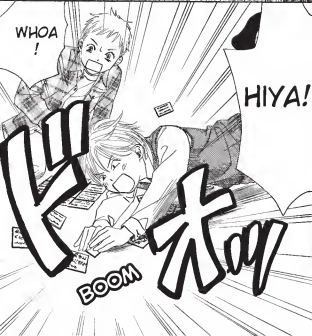
I DON'T
MIND.

NO.

NOT "IN
WATAYA-
KUN'S
PLACE."

YOUR
DREAMS
HAVE
GOTTA
ABOUT-
'CHERSELF.

NO...



(Se o) hayami
iwa ni sekaruru
takigawa no

(A mighty boulder
in a stream / Divides
the foaming flow;)

First
half

WHEN I
PLAYED
AGAINST
WATAYA-
KUN...

Sec-
ond
half

と系わ
そにれ
おあて

I ONLY WAITED
FOR THE FIRST
FEW SYLLABLES
OF THE FIRST
HALF BEFORE
MAKING MY
MOVE.

Warete mo sue ni
awan to zo omou
(But, worried, on it
goes, / And so
will we, I know.)

...HOW
TO PLAY
KARUTA
COMES
NATURAL
TO YOU.

HEH
HEH
HEH
HEH
...

You're
not
allowed
to use
both
hands.

WHA...
WHAT'RE
YOU
DOING...?

WE'RE
NOT
CATCHING
BUGS,
YOU
KNOW.

IN OTHER
WORDS...

OH!

AND FOR
THE ONES
I DON'T
REMEMBER
AT ALL...

I've seen
that one
before.
What
was it?

What was
the first
half of
that one
again?

I ONLY
NEED TO THINK
ABOUT THE FIRST
COUPLE OF
SYLLABLES OF
THE POEM WHEN
I'M GETTING
READY.

HYYAAH!

...I'LL
AIM FOR
THE AREA
HE'S
AIMING
FOR...

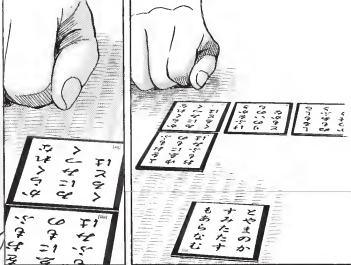
Getting
ready

FORGET
ABOUT
WHAT IT
MEANS!

...AND
SMACK
AWAY FIVE
OR SIX
CARDS (AT
RANDOM)!

"CHIHAYA"
T'ME.

IT
BASICAL-
LY READS



IT'S HOW
MY EYES SEE
IT.

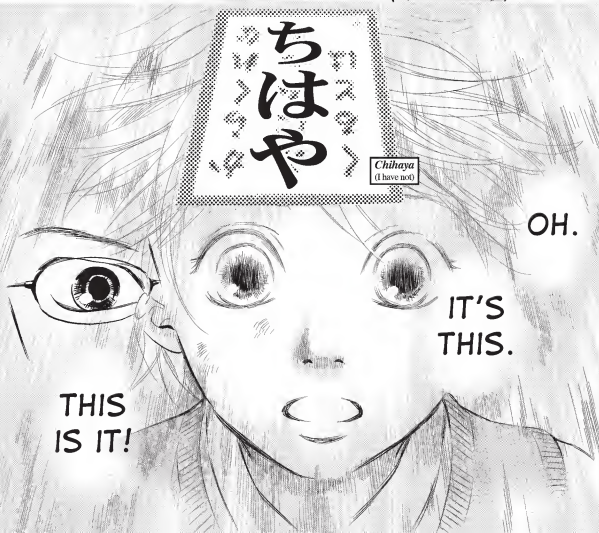


Chihaya
(I have not)

OH.

IT'S
THIS.

THIS
IS IT!



THIS IS
HOW A
KARUTA
PLAYER
SEES!

*Chihaya-
buru-*

(I have not
heard-)

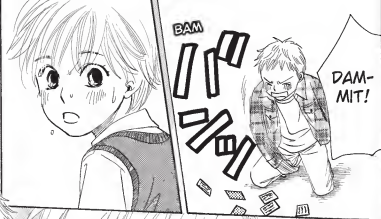


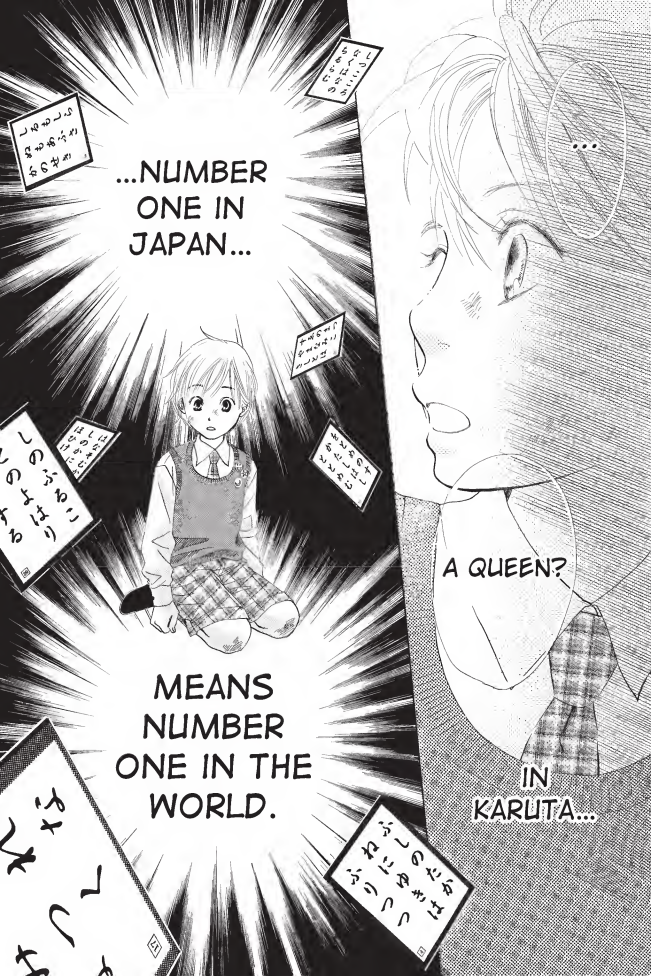
YAAAY
アア
PHEW!

AYASE-
SAN FROM
YEAR 6,
CLASS 1
WINS!

SHE
GOT
IT!

AL-
RIGHT!





...NUMBER
ONE IN
JAPAN...

MEANS
NUMBER
ONE IN THE
WORLD.

A QUEEN?

IN
KARUTA...

Chihayaburu

VERSE 2

Chihayaburu



IN
KARUTA...

NUMBER
ONE IN
JAPAN MEANS
NUMBER
ONE IN THE
WORLD.

CHIHAYA
AYASE-SAN,
CONGRATU-
LATIONS
ON WINNING
THE
COMPETITIVE
SPIRIT
PRIZE.

YOU
HAVE A
NEW FAN
AS OF
TODAY!

IT WAS
WONDERFUL
TO WATCH
YOUR
LIVELY
WAY OF
PLAYING
KARUTA.







TAICHI.



WA-
WATA-
YA-



YIKES.

IT'S
TAICHI'S
MOM.

I WENT OUT
OF MY WAY
TO FILM
YOU, BUT
WE CAN'T
SHOW YOUR
FATHER
THIS!

WHAT
ARE YOU
DOING?
HOW
COULD YOU
LOSE TO
A GIRL?

I CALL HER
"MRS."
PRESSURE."

I don't like
talking to her
very much.

THEY GET
MAD AT HIM
UNLESS HE
WINS AT
EVERYTHING.

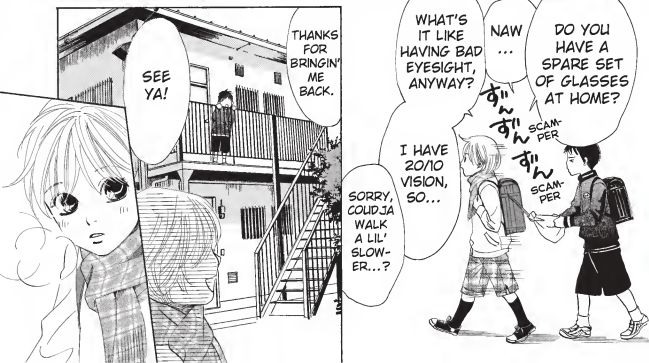
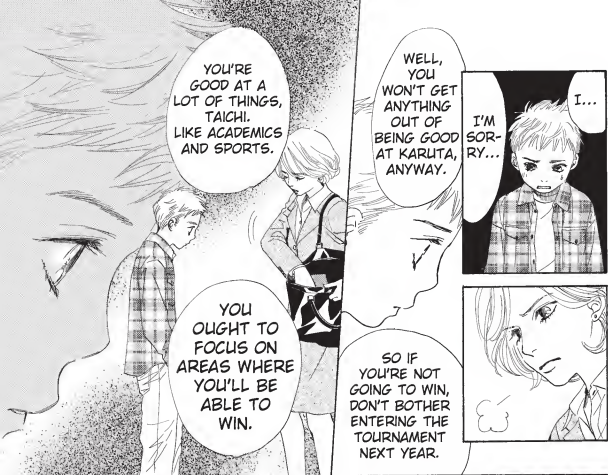
ESPE-
CIALLY
HIS MOM
OVER
THERE.

ACK...
MAYBE I
SHOULDN'T
HAVE DONE
THAT.

TAICHI'S
FAMILY IS
ALL ABOUT
WINNING.

WHY'S
SHE ALL
MAD?







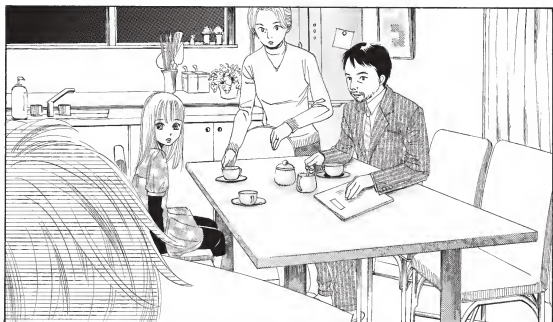
LOOK!
LOOK AT
WHAT I
GOT—

MOM!
SIS!



...YOU'VE
GOT A
KNACK
FOR
KARUTA.







Pff
WELL
THAT'S
BORING.

OR
MORE
LIKE
LAME.

KARUTA
TOURNA-
MENT?

WHY
WOULD
YOU
BOTHR
SHOWING
ME THIS?



KEEP IT
DOWN,
CHIHAYA,
OKAY?

I'M SORRY
TO HAVE
KEPT YOU
WAITING.

...THE FIRST
TIME I'VE
EVER WON
SOMETHING
LIKE THIS.

THIS
IS...

表賞状
敢闘賞
あなたは大
第七回の大
に優勝した
てに賞状を
贈ります

Certificate / Competitive Spirit Prize
/ Chihaya Ayase / Your impressive
performance at the / Seventh Karuta /
superior results / awarded this / prize



...I THINK
YOU'VE
GOT A
KNACK FOR
KARUTA.

AYASE-
SAN...





SHE CAN
HEAR
THAT?

WHAT
?

He is
reflecting
a lot
of light,
though...
THROUGH
THE
CLOSED
WINDOW
?

I'M KINDA
JEALOUS
OF YOU,
TAICHI.

は SIGH

I
RE-
ALLY
WISH

IT WAS
EASIER FOR
PEOPLE TO
NOTICE THE
THINGS I'M
GOOD AT.

NO ONE'S
EARS
ARE THAT
GOOD.

DON'T
BE
STUPID.

DON'T
CALL
ME
STUPID!

KEEP YOUR
MOUTH
SHUT.
YOU'RE
MAKING
ME LOOK
LAME.

NOT TO
MENTION
THAT I
LOST TO
YOU...

ヤ
シ
ヲ
GRAB

DON'T
THINK
I DON'T
KNOW!

YEAH,
RIGHT!

YOU WANTED TO
WIN THE KARU-
TA TOURNAMENT
SO BAD YOU EVEN
MADE HYAKUNIN
ISSHU FLASH
CARDS!

ACK...

HEH.
WELL.

I GUESS
A LOT OF
THINGS
JUST
CAME TO
ME NATU-
RALLY.

YOU'RE
ON THE MAIN
ROSTERS OF
THE SOCCER
AND BASEBALL
TEAMS, AND
YOU GET
GOOD
GRADES...

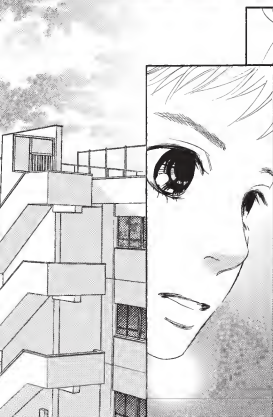
IT'S
EASY FOR
PEOPLE
TO SEE
WHAT
YOU'RE
GOOD AT.

高々
SMIRK



HOW
IS
THERE
ANY-
THING
LAME

...ABOUT
LOSING
A FAIR
FIGHT?!

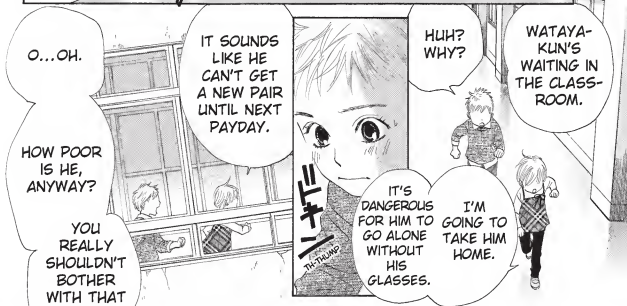
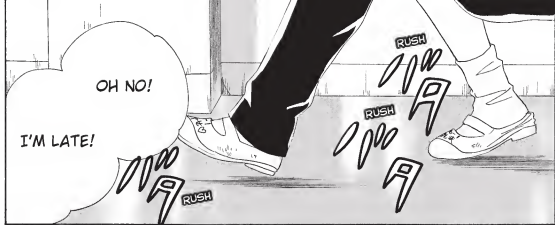


NOT LIKE
ANYONE
WOULD EVER
PRAISE YOU
FOR BEING
GOOD AT
KARUTA.



WELL.

THAT'S
WHAT I
THINK.





CHIHAYA.

THAT
WASN'T
A FAIR
FIGHT.



WHAT
I DID
REALLY
WAS
LAME.

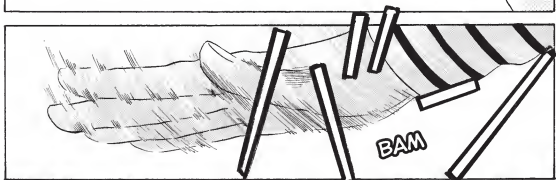


SHUSH.

WHAT'S
HE
DOING?

WHAT'S
WITH
HIM?





WH—
WHAT?





HE DOESN'T
HAVE CARDS...

HE DOESN'T
HAVE GLASSES...

THEY'RE
RIGHT
THERE...

BUT
HE CAN
SEE
THEM—





HEY,
WHAT'RE
YOU
DOING?

ARE YOU
THAT
OBSESSED
WITH
KARUTA?

IT'S
CREEPY
WATCHING
YOU DO
THAT
ALL BY
YOURSELF.



TO FIND
WATAYA-
KUN'S
GLASSES.

CHI-
HAYA
!

WHERE
ARE YOU
GOING?

THUNK
+||

9
||

NOT LIKE
ANYONE
WOULD
EVER
PRAISE YOU
FOR BEING
GOOD AT
KARUTA.

WHA
?!

I'M
SEARCH-
ING THE
HILLS IN
BACK.

ONE
MIGHT'VE
TAKEN HIS
GLASSES
BECAUSE
THEY'RE SO
SHINY.

THERE ARE
A LOT OF
CROWS
AROUND
HERE.

I'VE
GOT
TO
FIND

...

ZAKK

...
WATAYA-
KUN'S
GLASSES
!

HUP!

KRATTLE

WHY
WOULD
THEY BE
IN THE
HILLS?!

CHIHAYA!

...PLAY
ALL THE
KARUTA
HE WANTS
TO AGAIN!

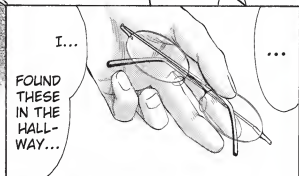
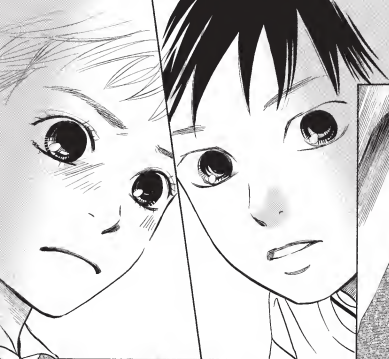
I WANT
TO LET
WATAYA-
KUN...

...



A-
AYASE-
SAN...
IT'S
FINE...





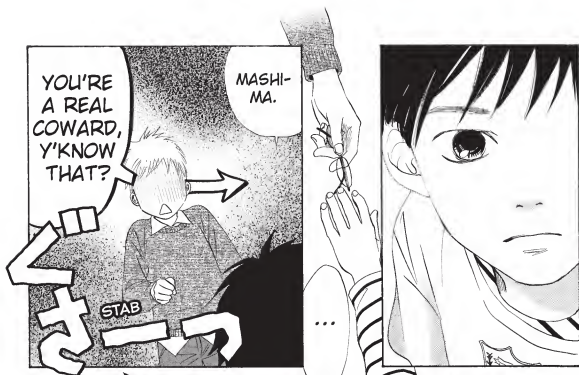
I DID IT.





PLEASE
DON'T
TELL
CHIHAYA...

...





WHOA!

SORRY ABOUT THAT!

HMM, I DON'T SEE THEM.

CHIHAYA!

AYASE-SAN!



CHI-HAYA!

WHERE ARE YOU, CHIHA-FOUND YA? HIS GLASSES!

CHI-HAYA!

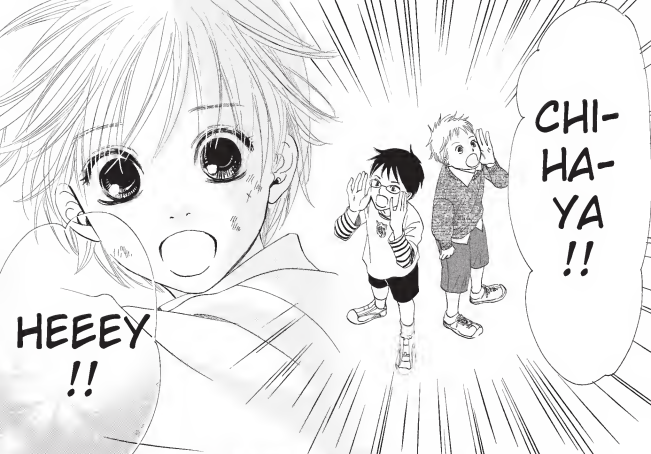


CHI-

I DON'T WANT HER

TO HATE ME—

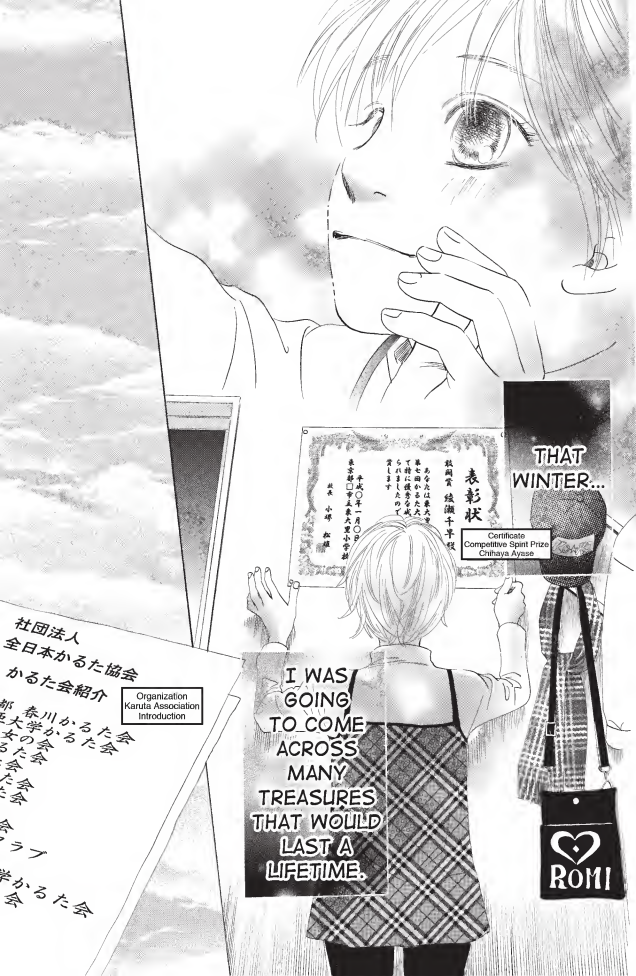




...THAT
WAS
WHEN...

...I
STARTED
TO
REALIZE.





社団法人
全日本かるた協会
かるた会紹介

都立大の女子会
春川かるた会
学かるた会
学かるた会
クラブ
学かるた会

Organization
Aruta Association
Introduction

I WAS
GOING
TO COME
ACROSS
MANY
TREASURES
THAT WOULD
LAST A
LIFETIME.

THAT
WINTER...

Certificate
Competitive Spirit Prize
Chihaya Ayase





huh
NOD



HEY.

KARUTA
IS THE
ONE THING
YOU'RE
BEST AT,
RIGHT?



AND
THERE'S
A
KARUTA
CLUB
PRETTY
CLOSE
TO US.

Heh
heh
IT
WAS
EASY.

YOU
LOOKED
ALL THIS
UP ON
THE IN-
TERNET?

WOW,
TAICHI!

BUT I'LL
GET EVEN
BETTER
THAN
YOU IN
NO TIME
FLAT!

YEAH,
TAICHI.
AREN'T YOU
SKIPPING
SOCCER
TODAY?



WELL,
I DON'T
HAVE TIME
TO SIT
AROUND
AND PLAY
KARUTA
ALL DAY!



YOU'RE
GONNA
PLAY TOO,
MASHIMA?

WOW,
LET'S GO!



市立文化センター

Municipal
Culture Center

家庭用
食器
洗剤
回収
日
11月8日

Shiranami
Karuta Club
Practice

白波かるた会
練習場

THERE
IT IS!

IT'S THE
SECOND
FLOOR
OF THIS
BUILDING.

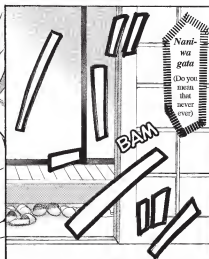
SHUT
UP,
CHI-
HAYA!
AND
YOUR
MAP IS
UPSIDE
DOWN!

WHAA
?





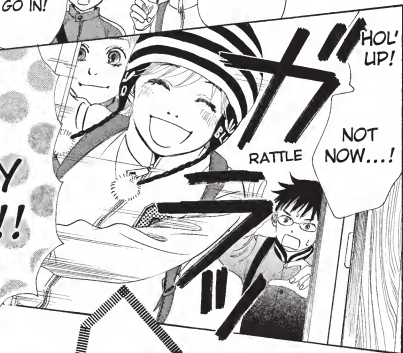
TH-
THUMP



LET'S
GO IN!

THIS IS IT,
RIGHT?

HEEEYY
THERE!!



NOT
NOW...!

*Aki no
ta no*

(I sit alone on
this autumn
night)



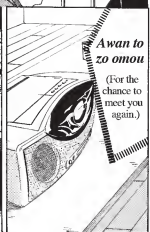
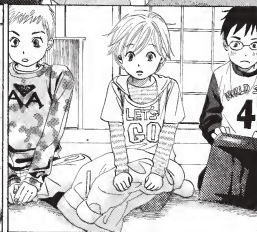
Chihayaburu

VERSE 3

Chihayaburu



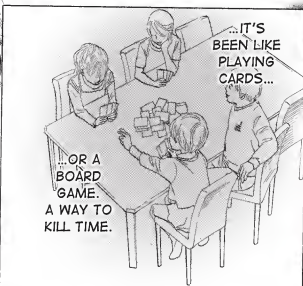








BUT
THIS IS
DIFFER-
ENT.



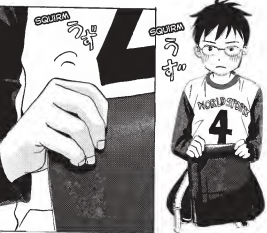
...IT'S
BEEN LIKE
PLAYING
CARDS...

...OR A
BOARD
GAME.
A WAY TO
KILL TIME.



WHEN
I'VE
PLAYED
KARUTA

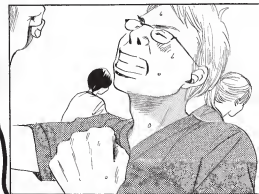
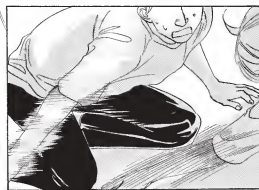
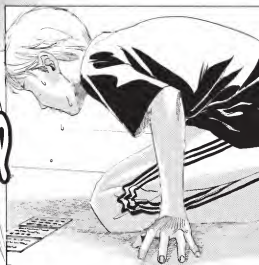
...



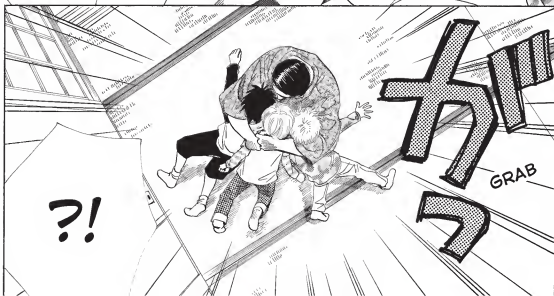
THIS
IS A
SPORT.



THUMP



THUMP



NO MATTER
WHAT ANYONE
ELSE SAYS,
YOU'RE
WELCOME
HERE!!

YOU'RE
ALL
WELCOME
TO
JOIN!

NO ONE'S
GOING TO
COMPLAIN,
SENSEI...

URK...

BUT JUST
LOOK
AT THIS!
THREE
WHOLE
PEOPLE!!

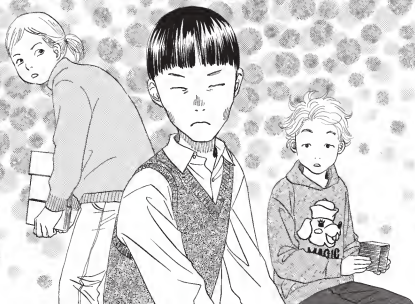
UURGH...

BUT
EVEN THEN,
WE'LL ONLY
FIND A
PERSON OR
TWO WHO
WILL JOIN
US...

WE RUN
REGIONAL
TOURNAMENTS
TWICE A
YEAR FOR
INSTRUCTIONAL
PURPOSES,

HEEEY!

HIRO-KUN,
EVERYONE
ELSE!
YOU'VE GOT
SOME NEW
FRIENDS
NOW!



I'VE ONLY
REMEMBERED
ABOUT HALF
THE CARDS,
LIKE THE A-SET
AND THE NA-SET.

OH,
UHH ...

HE'S
ASKING
ABOUT
RANK,
NOT
SKILL.

?!
HEY.

YOU ^{AMPH}
THREE
ARE FROM
EAST
OHSATO
ELEMENTARY,
AREN'T
YOU?
BY THE
WAY,
WHAT
KARUTA
RANK
ARE
YOU?

RANK?

AHAHAHA

PFFT!

LEER-O?

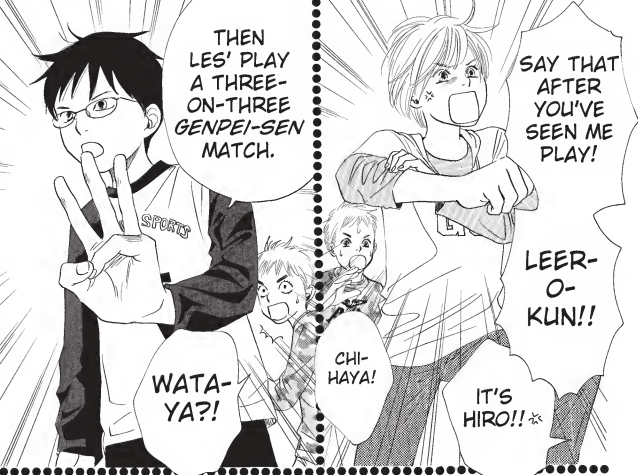
HIRO!
MY
NAME'S
HIRO
KINASHI!

あはははは

THERE'S
NO POINT
IN YOU
EVEN
COMING.
WE
MOSTLY
DO
PRACTICE
MATCHES
HERE,

YOU
DON'T EVEN
KNOW ALL
THE CARDS
AND YOU
CAME HERE
ANYWAY?

!



THEN
LES' PLAY
A THREE-
ON-THREE
GENPEI-SEN
MATCH.

SAY THAT
AFTER
YOU'VE
SEEN ME
PLAY!

LEER-
O-
KUN!!

WATA-
YA?!

CHI-
HAYA!

IT'S
HIRO!! ✖



WE'RE
JUST
GONNA
LOSE IF
WE TRY...

YOU
JUST
SAW
THEM
PLAY,
RIGHT
?
US
AMATEURS
AREN'T
IN THEIR
LEAGUE.

LET'S
JUST
WATCH
FOR
TODAY.

TA-
ICHI.



WE'RE
NOT
GOING TO
LOSE!

WHAT'RE
YOU
TALKING
ABOUT,
TAICHI?



HOW IS SHE ABLE TO BE SO CONFIDENT?

その自信はどこから

IF WE PLAY, WE'RE GONNA WIN.

OF COURSE.



I THINK I MIGHT WATCH THIS!

SOUNDS INTERESTING!

I KNOW HOW MUCH YOU WANT THOSE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL CHILDREN TO JOIN, BUT THEY'VE GOT THEMSELVES INTO SOME TROUBLE...

IS THIS OKAY, HARADA-SENSEI?

WHAT'S WITH THESE TWO—?



WHAT?

YOU'RE NOT GOING TO PLAY?

But you always want to play!



WHAT?!
YOU DON'T
EVEN KNOW
THAT BUT
YOU WANT TO
PLAY US?

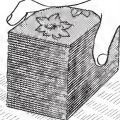
QUIET
DOWN,
LEER-O-
KUN.

EACH TEAM'S
GOT FIFTY
TORIFUDA
CARDS ALL
LINED UP
IN THREE
COLUMNS.

WE PLAY
IN TEAMS,
NOT ONE-
ON-ONE.

A
GENPEI-SEN
MATCH IS
SIMPLE.

HUH!



AND
CHIHAYA,
THESE'RE
YOURS.

LINE
'EM UP
IN THREE
COLUMNS.

SO I'M
GOING TO
BE RE-
SPONSIBLE
FOR THESE
?

PUT
THESE IN
FRONT OF
YOU, MASHIMA.



YOU'LL
BE GIVEN
FIFTEEN
MINUTES OF
MEMORIZA-
TION TIME
AFTER YOU
PLACE YOUR
CARDS!

DON'
WORRY.

WHY
THESE
?
THERE
ARE SOME
IN HERE
THAT I
HAVEN'T
MEMORIZED
YET...

YOU'VE
GOTTA BE
ABLE TO
DO IT.

YOUR
CARDS AND
THEIRS,
'COURSE.

TIME FOR
MEMORIZIN'
THE CARDS
YOU LINED
UP.

YA
DIDN'T
KNOW?

Yerp.
we
do.

MEM-
ORI-
ZATION
TIME?



I HAVE
TO
MEMO-
RIZE
IT?!

WHERE
ALL
HUNDRED
OF THESE
CARDS
ARE?!



かげしやそ
こをすれも
ひのみゆき
またなゆき
おかしはも
のをおもは
さりけり
なかなかし
かむむむむ
くたけでも
のをおもふ
ころかな
みきききき
つしををし
なりける
わがこころ
てはつゆに
ぬれつつ
ひどのいの
もあるかな
なほうらめ
しきあさほ
らけかな
けふこの
へにはひ
ぬるかな
はけしかれ
とはいの
ぬものを
けのつとき
のこれる
ありあけの
しきまら
いてつるかな
ころほす
てふあま
かくやま
かたこくま
てのつぎな
みしくよき
ぬめすま
せきもち
たつたのか
はのにしき
なりけり
よをうちや
まどひとは
いふなり
きりな
ほろあ
ゆふく
ゆめのか
ちらひと
よくら
われて
とをおも
ぬへやま
せをあら
どいふら
うきにな
ぬはなみ
なりけり
わかたつ
まにすみ
めのでて
こまきと
きききき
かなしき
をどめ
かたし
どめむ
ひるはき
つつおも
こおおも
ものや
ふとひと
とふまで



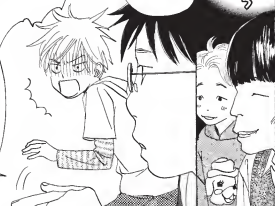
BUT I
DON'T
HAVE THEM
MEMORIZED
AT ALL
YET!

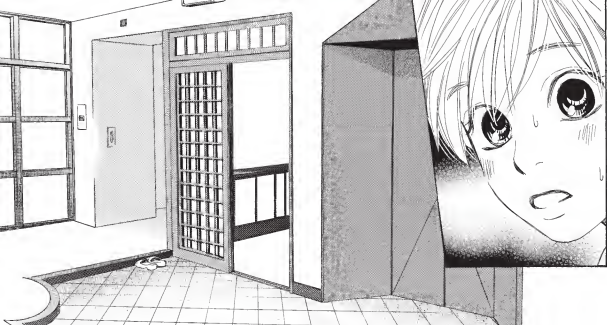
HUH?!

O'ER
HERE,
CHIHAYA.

PPPPP
ふふふふ

WE
CAN GO
WHER-
EVER
WE WANT
RIGHT
NOW.
WE'RE
GONNA
TALK
STRATEGY
OUTSIDE.





CHIHAYA,
I GAVE YOU
WHAT'RE CALLED
"ONE-CHARACTER
CARDS."

FIRST,



FOR
YOU,
MA-
SHIMA
...

*Maruanae no taya no
made hitei maki no ka ni
(The fit you know will guess /
From the surface shows today)*

ONLY ONE
CARD THAT
BEGINS
WITH "MU."

むらさめの
つゆもまだひぬ
まきのほに

きりたらの
ほもあきの
ゆふくれ

*Kiri tachinoboru
aki no yugure
(He think, the valley
starts snow / To know
the snow early)*

THERE'S
SEVEN CARDS
YOU KNOW
YOU CAN
GRAB AFTER
JES' ONE
CHARACTER IS
READ.

OH...

Now
that you
mention it!



YOU'VE
GOT GOOD
REFLEXES,
CHIHAYA.
I WANTCHA
TO FOCUS
ON THOSE.

I GAVE
YOU THE
"SIX-
CHARACTER
CARDS,"
ALSO KNOWN
AS THE
"OHYAMA
CARDS."

I ALSO
GAVE YOU
THE "TWO-
CHARACTER
CARDS"
FROM THE
A-SET.



THEY'RE NAMED THAT 'CAUSE IT REFERS TO HOW YOU GOTTA GUESS WHICH IS GONNA BE RIGHT.

Parently.

Asabōrake
awake no
tsuki to mizu
made ni
(Which is the
gate moonlight
/ And which
the pick-up
sauce?)

あさぼらけ
ありあけのつきと
みるまでに

よしののき
とにふれる
しらゆき

Yoshino no koto
ni fureru
shirayuki
(Here it shows
in Yoshino)
It's impossible
to know.)

THE CARDS SOUND THE SAME UNTIL THE SIXTH CHARACTER, WHICH IS WHEN YOU KNOW WHICH TO TAKE.

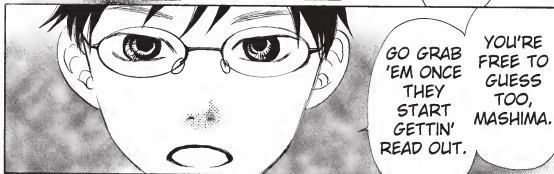
あさぼらけ
うじのかわきり
たえだえに

あらはれわ
たるせせの
あしちき

Arawarete wa
sore no
sawagi
(Sawagi and
sawagi-
only / The
fishing sticks
appear.)

Asabōrake
sū no
kawagiri
tsue-dae ni
(At dawn in
water by the
Utsu River,
/ The mist
begins to
clear.)

LIKE "A-SA-BO-RA-KE," OR "KI-MI-GA-TA-ME." EACH HAS GOT TWO CARDS WITH THOSE FIRST FIVE CHARACTERS THE SAME.



GO GRAB 'EM ONCE THEY START GETTIN' READ OUT.

YOU'RE FREE TO GUESS TOO, MASHIMA.



RIGHT, CHIHAYA?

WHY WOULD IT BE FINE?

GRAB THEM ONCE THEY START GETTING READ?

GAVE YA THE "FIVE-CHARACTER CARDS" TOO.

WHAT IF I GET THE WRONG ONE?!

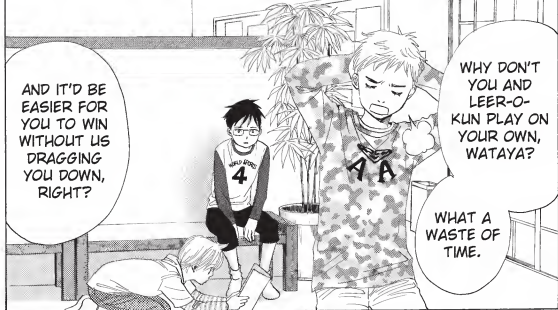
ACTING LIKE HE'S THE BOSS HERE...

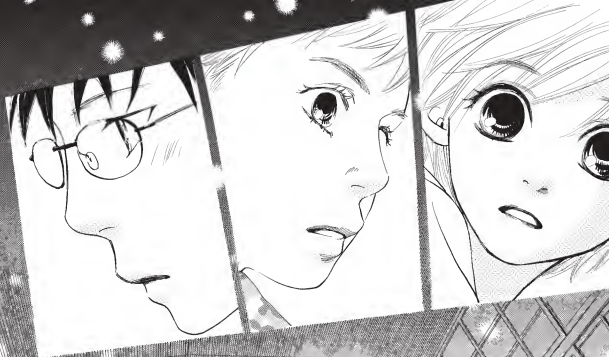
IT'LL BE FINE.



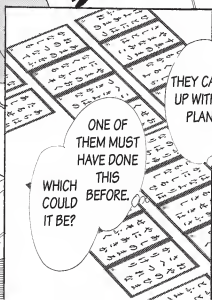
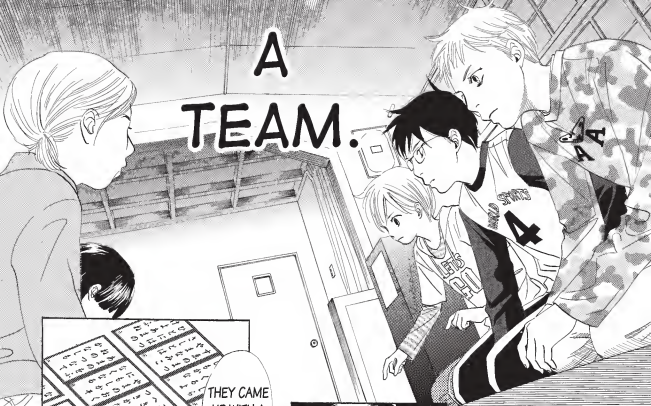
...IT'S NOT LIKE YOU THERE'S KNOW... ANY POINT IN STRATE-GIZING.







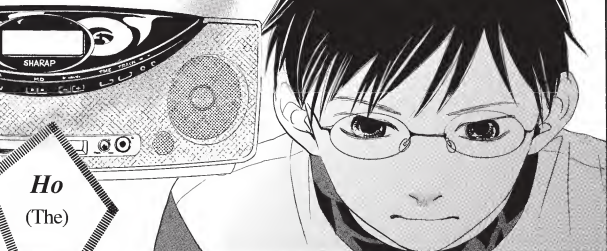
A TEAM.



ONE OF
THEM MUST
HAVE DONE
THIS
BEFORE.
WHICH
COULD
IT BE?

THEY CAME
UP WITH A
PLAN.





Ho
(The)



WHY'D YOU
TAKE IT?!

THAT WAS
A ONE-CHAR-
ACTER CARD!
I'M SUPPOSED
TO BE TAKING
CARE OF IT,
RIGHT?!

WHY'D
YOU DO
THAT?!

I knew that
one too!

—
totogisu
(little cuckoo
I heard just
now)



'CAUSE
YOU'RE
SLOW.

*Tado arisite
no naki zo
nakereru*
(All I can see
now is this sky)
= the canvas on the
morning light

'S FINE.

GOT THEIR CARD.

Waga koromode ni yuki wa furi tsutsu
(And to my clothes a thousand! Your snowflakes please!)

けろり

SHRUG

な

THIS IS ONE OF MINE!

Kimi ga tame

(Picking for you in the fields)

SMACK

OH NO!

Haru no no ni idete wakana tsumu

(The first green herbs of spring →)

GOT THE WRONG CARD...
I guessed wrong

Yagasaki mo goro to omoi kuru kano
(But now that we have met and loved, I want to stay forever...)

WE CANCEL EACH OTHER OUT.
GIVEN ONE OF YOURS.

BUT'CHA GOT THE WRONG ONE.

THAT WAY YOU CAN MESS UP AND WE'LL JES' CANCEL OUT.

I'LL GRAB OHYAMA CARDS TOO.

WHAT...?



YOU CALL THIS BEING A TEAM, STUPID?!



HE DOESN'T WANT TO PUT ANY TRUST IN US!!

YOU'RE NOT GETTING THE NEXT ONE, THOUGH!!

I OH. GUESS NOT.

BOP

BOP

BOP

BOP

BOP

WORLD BOB 4

YOU GOT ANOTHER ONE!

AARGH !!

BAM

THE OTHER KIDS ARE STARTING TO LOSE HEART.

WELL, IF HE'S THAT MUCH BETTER THAN THEM—

GLARE

ホコホコホコホコ

AARGH
!!

WELL,
IF HE'S
THAT
MUCH
BETTER
THAN
THEM—

BAM

GLARE

WH- WHAT'S WITH THESE KIDS? THEY KNOW THEY'RE PLAYING AGAINST US AND NOT EACH OTHER, RIGHT?

かゝるゐるゐる
GRR-RRR

GRR-
PRR

...BUT
HE'S NOT
EXPECTING
ANYTHING
FROM US.

THERE'S
NO POINT
IN TRYING.

WHY ARE
YOU GETTING
FRUSTRATED WHEN
HE'S THAT MUCH
BETTER THAN US,
CHIHAYA?

WHY...

WATAYA
MIGHT TALK
ABOUT
PLAYING AS
A TEAM...

WHY...

...BUT
HE'S NOT
EXPECTING
ANYTHING
FROM US.

WATAYA
MIGHT TALK
ABOUT
PLAYING AS
A TEAM...

*Uji no
kawagiri
tae-dae
ni*

(The mists
begin to
clear.)

THEY'RE
NOT
EXPECTING

YOU OUGHT
TO FOCUS
ON AREAS
WHERE
YOU'LL BE
ABLE TO
WIN.



あはは
AHA-
HA!

THAT WAS
A PIECE
OF CAKE!
NEXT
TIME,
I'LL...

I-I DID
IT!!

I GOT
THE
RIGHT
ONE,
WATAYA!!

*Asa-
borake*

(At dawn
in winter
by the Uji
River.)

*Yoshino no sato ni
fureru shirayuki*
(Here it dawn in Yoshino,
It's impossible to know.)

WHAT A
BEAUTIFUL
BLOCK!

HE MOVED
SO QUICKLY
TO STOP HIS
OPPONENT.

OH!

BUT
GLASSES
BOY WAS
ONLY
ABLE TO
MAKE HIS
MOVE...

...BECAUSE HE
BELIEVED THAT
EYELASHES
WOULD GRAB
THE RIGHT ONE.

Eyelashes

NICE
ONE,

TAICHI.





LISTEN.



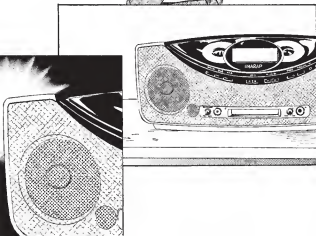
LISTEN.

I'D LOVE
TO HAVE
HIM JOIN
US—

HE MUST
BE A
RANKED
PLAYER.



WHO
EXACTLY IS
GLASSES
BOY,
THOUGH?



SQUEEZE

TH-
THUMP

TH-
THUMP



BAM

とせむし
いふ
あらし
かぜ
やま
むね
か

Mube yama kaze o
arashi to iuran
(Like storm-troopers they
are indeed - / They come,
they conquer, they pass.)



SMACK

*ku
kara ni*
(stormy
mountain
winds)

I
FINAL-
LY
GOT
ONE!

9⁰⁰
9⁰⁰
DASH

I DID
IT!!

JES'
CHIHAYA
HITTIN'
THE CARD.

I
COULDN'T
HEAR THE
FIRST
"FU" (The).

WHAT
WAS THAT?
"FURU
KARANI"?
(The stormy
mountain winds)

THAT WAS
THE FIRST
TIME I EVER
GOT A CARD
LIKE A REAL
KARUTA
PLAYER!

DID I
HURT
YOU?
I'M
SORRY,
SENSEI!!

ALL OF THESE
EXPERIENCED
ADULT
PLAYERS ARE
HERE...

MY
VERY
FIRST
CARD!

N-NOT AT
ALL...



I GOT
MY FIRST
CARD.

...BUT SHE
WAS THE
FASTEST
ONE HERE.

THE
ONLY
ONE TO
MAKE A
MOVE.

WOW...

むへやまか
せをあらし
といふらむ

Mube yama kaze o
arashi to iuran
(Like storm tooopen they
are indeed— /
They come, they compact,
they pass.)

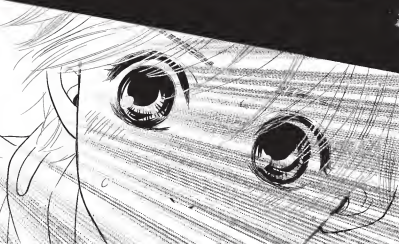
THAT
FELT
GREAT.

PLAYING
KARUTA
FEELS
GREAT!

VERSE 4

Chihayaburu

I WANT
TO GET
ANOTHER
CARD!



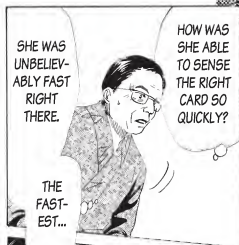


SHE GOT
ONE ON
ME.



IT'S NOT
LIKE MY
MIND WAS
WANDERING.

JES' LIKE
BEFORE.



SHE WAS
UNBELIEV-
ABLY FAST
RIGHT
THERE.

HOW WAS
SHE ABLE
TO SENSE
THE RIGHT
CARD SO
QUICKLY?

THE
FAST-
EST...



ROAR



IS
CHIHAYA
BETTER
THAN ME
AT ONE-
CHAR-
ACTER
CARDS?!



I...

Make your hate o
arashi to inaru
I do even-though they
are related... I they even
they cannot they are...

I...

HEH
HEH
HEH
...

I
ONLY
ENDED
UP
WITH
ONE...

CUT IT
OUT,
YOU
GUYS...

I
LOST...

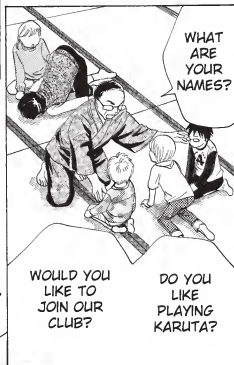
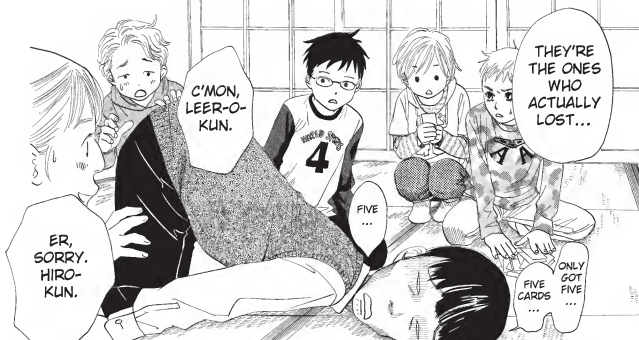
AAGH!

HIYA!

I LOVE
WATCH-
ING
THESE
KIDS
PLAY!!

と
り
や
い

ギ
ャ
ー



FROM
FIRST
GRADE
TO FIFTH
GRADE...

... YOU'VE
WON THE
NATIONAL
TOURNAMENT
FOR YOUR
AGE GROUP
EVERY
SINGLE
YEAR.

I... I
KNOW
YOU...

I'VE SEEN
YOUR NAME ON
THE NATIONAL
TOURNAMENT
RESULTS...

ARATA
WATA-
YA!!

TURN

CHATTER

...EVERY
YEAR?!

HE'S
WON
THE NA-
TIONAL
TOURNA-
MENT...



LOOK, HARADA-SENSEI IS FIST-PUMPING AGAIN.

That's twice in one day

OF COURSE HE IS.



YOU KNOW WHAT THE SHIRANAMI CLUB HAS ALWAYS WANTED.

カミヤマの
マシロウ
HE WAS KNOWN AS THE ALAIN DELON OF THE KARUTA WORLD!



"SOME DAY..."

...WE'LL PRODUCE A MASTER—"

AND THAT'S NOT THE MOST AMAZING PART.

DOES THAT MEAN HE'S THE GRANDSON OF HAJIME WATAYA...

IF HIS LAST NAME IS "WATAYA"...



...WHO RECEIVED THE ETERNAL MASTER RANK IN THE '80S AFTER BECOMING CHAMPION SEVEN TIMES IN A ROW?!



I HAVEN'T
MEMORIZED
ALL THE
CARDS YET.

ER...
I,
UHH...

WELL
...

I'M
NOW-
HERE ON
WATAYA-
KUN'S
LEVEL...



YOU
WANT
TO PLAY
KARUTA
TOO?
WHAT
ABOUT
YOU
TWO?

HUH?

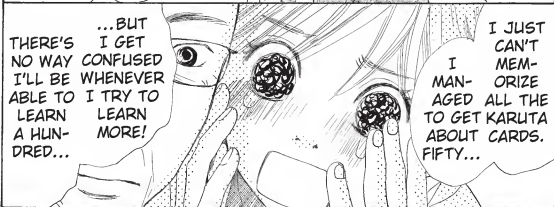


WELL,
UHH...

UM,
SENSEI...

HM?

S-
SENSEI...



...BUT
THERE'S I GET
NO WAY CONFUSED
I'LL BE WHENEVER
ABLE TO I TRY TO
LEARN LEARN
A HUN- MORE!
DRED...

I JUST
CAN'T
MEM-
ORIZE
I MAN-
AGED ALL THE
TO GET KARUTA
ABOUT CARDS.
FIFTY...



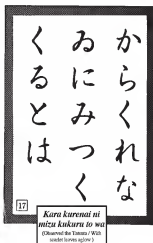
AREN'T
THERE SOME
CARDS YOU
SEE AND
IMMEDIATELY
REMEMBER
THEIR FIRST
HALVES?

I SEE,
I SEE.

BUT
I'M SURE
THERE ARE
SOME YOU
REMEMBER
PERFECTLY.
RIGHT?

HAH!

HAHA!





THERE
ARE A
HUNDRED
POEMS
IN THE
HYAKUNIN
ISSHU.



CRE-
ATING
A DEEP
CON-
NECTION
WITH A
CARD...

...AL-
LWS
YOU TO
TAKE IT
QUICKER
THAN
ANYONE
ELSE



LOOK AT
IT AS
HAVING
MADE A
HUNDRED
NEW
FRIENDS.

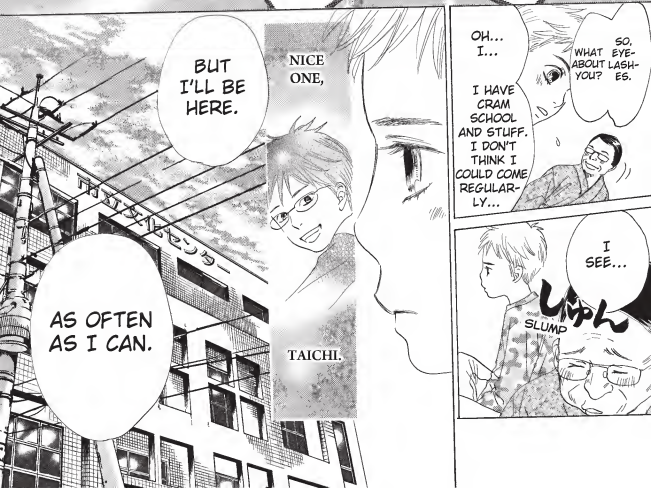


I WANT
YOU
TO GET
ALONG,
ALRIGHT?



FRIENDS

...



BUT
I'LL BE
HERE.

NICE
ONE,

AS OFTEN
AS I CAN.

TAICHI.

OH...
I...

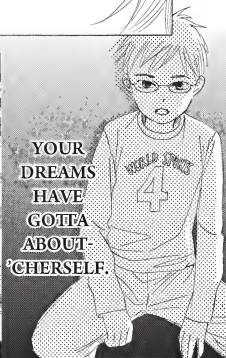
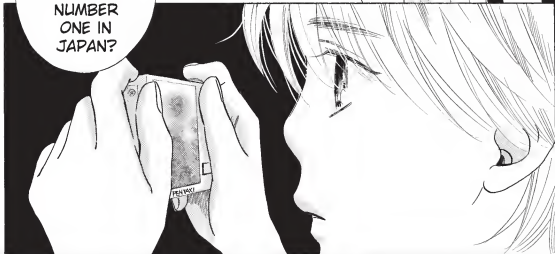
I HAVE
CRAM
SCHOOL
AND STUFF.
I DON'T
THINK I
COULD COME
REGULAR-
LY...

SO,
WHAT
ABOUT LASH-
YOU?
ES.

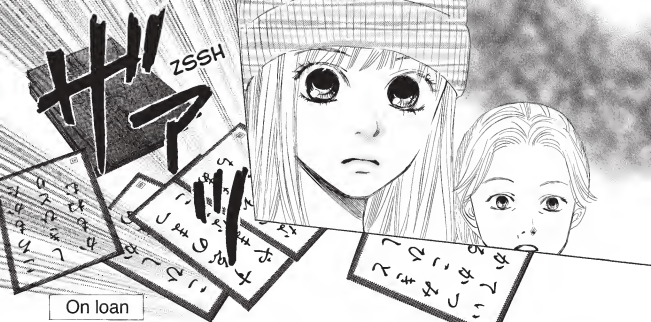
I
SEE...

しゅん
SLUMP









On loan

THE SALT-SEA-WEED'S NOT COMING, THE SALT-SEA-WEED'S NOT COMING.

Mumble

"KONU HITO O..."
"YAKU YA MOSHIO NO..."

What's that supposed to mean?

Fujisawa no Teika:
Konu hito o masuho no ura no yunagi ni /
Yaku ya moshio no mi mo kogarete itaru
(You do not come, but still I wait / As sunset on Matsuo Bay, / Like the salt seaweed along the beach / My heart is burning away.)

A COLD MOUNTAIN THAT SOUNDS LIKE CLOTH.

Mumble

"MI-YO-SHI-NO-NO ..."

"FU-RU-SATO-SAMU-KU..."

In the bathroom

Fujisawa no Masatane:
Miyoshi no yama no akikaze nayo fukete /
Furusato samuku koremo uta nari
(A cold mountain wind / Howl's Yohane temple / The sound of cloth being pressed / Echoes through the night.)

WHAT IS SHE THINKING?

は PHEW

CAN YOU GET ANY LAMER THAN THAT?

KARU-TA? SERIOUSLY?

SHE'S ACTUALLY INTERESTED IN SOMETHING FOR ONCE, AFTER ALL.

OH, I THINK IT'S FINE.

ALL
CHIHAYA
NEEDS
TO DO IS
LOOK AT
ME...

WHAT'S
SHE
GOING
TO GET
OUT OF
IT?

WHAT
DO YOU
MEAN?

AND

WHAT
DO YOU
MEAN?

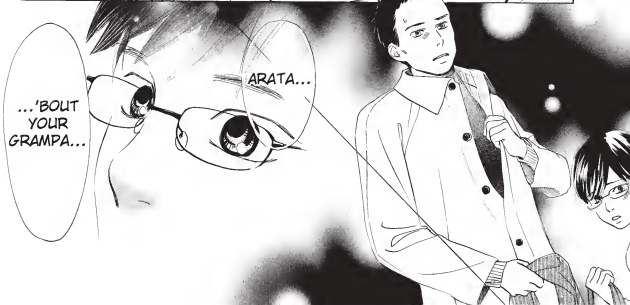
...AND
TELL
ME HOW
AMAZING
I AM.

綾瀬千早殿
 貴方には大変小言致
 事七回かたまたま会に於て
 手紙に便書する機会に於て
 手紙を書いたのて、これを
 書します
 十月〇年一月〇日
 東京府〇〇区〇〇大宮小言致
 小言致 謹啓

LOOK AT IT
AS HAVING
MADE A
HUNDRED
NEW
FRIENDS.

I WANT YOU
TO GET
ALONG,
ALRIGHT?

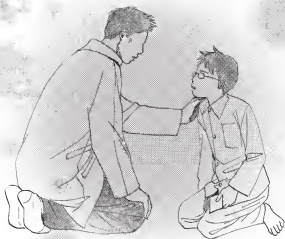
I WANT YOU
TO GET
ALONG,
ALRIGHT?





Ara-
zaramu

(Just one
small thing
I ask of
you.)



THANK
YOU
VERY
MUCH.

I DID IT!
I GOT
SIX CARDS
OFF OF
WATAYA-
KUN!

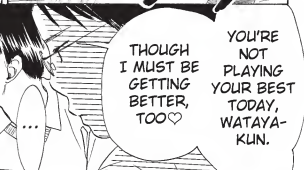


Konu
hito o

(You do
not come,
but still
I wait)



AYASE-SAN,
PLEASE STOP
SQUIRMING
AROUND
EVERY-
WHERE!



THOUGH
I MUST BE
GETTING
BETTER,
TOO♡

YOU'RE
NOT
PLAYING
YOUR BEST
TODAY,
WATAYA-
KUN.



WHAT'S
THAT?



HARA-
DA-
SENSEI.

City / Karuta Elementary School
Tournament / Karuta Club will be
holding an event / as follows / three
individuals per team / for high-ranking
individuals will take place on a
separate date in a separate location.

SMALL

IT'S A
TEAM
TOURNA-
MENT,
WITH
THREE
PLAYERS
PER
TEAM.

IT'LL
BE THE
LAST
TOUR-
NAMENT
YOU CAN
ENTER AS
A SIXTH
GRADER.

長殿

〇市

首かるた小学生大会のお知らせ

〇市かるた大会を下記の要領にて開催いたします。
主三人1チームの団体戦を行います。
〇市の上級者の部は別日程・別会場で行いますのでご注意

AN
ANNOUNCEMENT
FOR A CITYWIDE
ELEMENTARY
SCHOOL
TOURNAMENT
IN MARCH.

記

A
COM-
PETI-
TION?

ガッラッ RATTLE

LIGHT, YOU
REALLY
NEED TO
WORK ON
THAT, YOU
KNOW...

I BET YOU'RE
GONNA SAY
YOU WON'T
ENTER BECAUSE
YOU DON'T
KNOW IF YOU'LL
WIN OR NOT.

WHAT'RE
YOU
TALKING
ABOUT?

HEY,
THEY'RE
SAYING
THERE'S
GONNA BE A
THREE-PER-
SON TEAM
TOURNA-
MENT!!

HURK!

YOU
WERE
AT CRAM
SCHOOL
FOR-
EVER,
TAICHI!

THREE
PER
TEAM?
OH
WELL,
FINE
THEN.

I
GUESS
I
COULD,
TOO...

I-I
WANNA
COM-
PETE
!



AS A
TEAM.

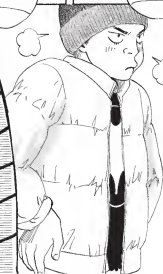
OF
COURSE
WE'LL
WIN.



BUT
Y'KNOW,
AT THIS
TOURNA-
MENT...



WH...
WHAT?
TAICHI?



HUH?

SPE-
CIAL
TRAIN-
ING!

TWO'VE US
HAVE GOT
TO WIN
EACH TIME.

...THEY
DON'T PLAY
GENPEI-SEN
MATCHES.
WE ALL
GOTTA PLAY
ALONE.

ゴゴゴ

BUT
ONE'A
YOU TWO
ARE
GONNA
WIN TOO,
RIGHT?

I KNOW
I'M
GONNA
WIN.

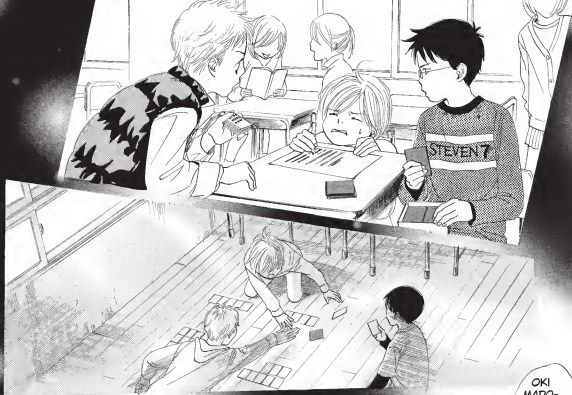
ゴゴゴ
ROOOOOAR



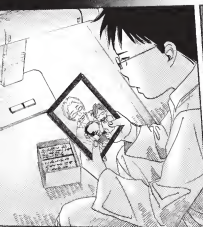
S-SPECIAL
TRAINING?

WE GOTTA
DO SOME
SPECIAL
TRAINING!

SPECIAL
TRAIN-
ING!



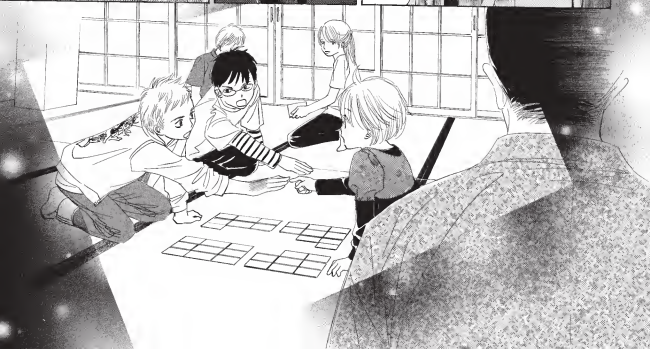
OKI
MADO-
WASERU,
(If I happen to
pick a flower),
WHAT
KIND OF
FLOWER
WAS
THAT...

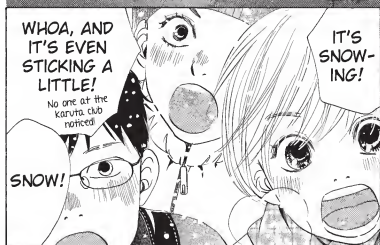
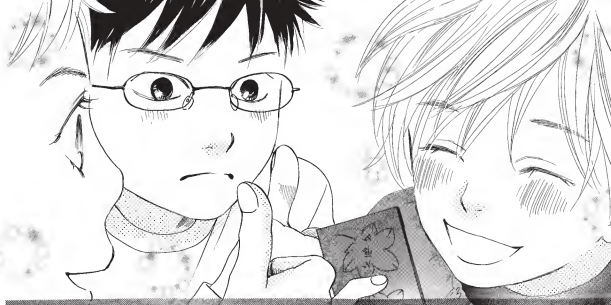


THE
CARD
START-
ED
WITH
"KOKO"
(first frost)
...
FROSTED
FLOW-
ERS.

OH

YEAH,







HUH?

WHOOSH

"YO NO NAKA WA"?

(The busy fishing folk at work—)



HEH HEH HEH ...

THAT WAS FAST!



YOU'RE SO SLOW, CHI-HAYA!

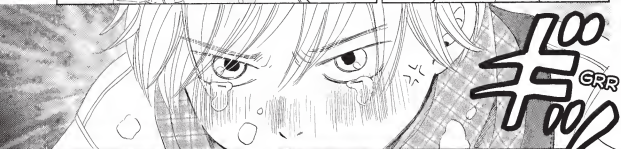
ギヤハハハ

GAHA-HAHA

... "AMA NO OBUNE NO TSUNA DE KANASHI MO." ...

(If only all things in this world / Could stay as they've always been!)

IT SNOWED WAY MORE IN FUKUI.



GRR



AAHH !!

"ARIAKE NO."

(Ever since I left you.)

"AKATSUKI BAKARI UKI MONO WA NASHI"

(As cold as the daybreak moon / Your expression that fateful morn.)

"KIMI GA TAME O."

(To tell the truth, I was willing to die / For)

"WAGA KOROMODE NI YUKI WA FURI TSUTSU."

(And to my sleeves a thousand / Tiny snowflakes cling.)

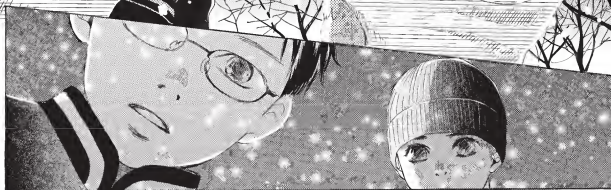
THAT'S "KIMI GA TAME HA"!

(Picking for you in the fields / The)

WOOO !







WHEN IT
COMES
TO CHIL-
DREN...

...NO
MATTER
HOW MUCH
THEY LIKE
KARUTA, OR
HOW GOOD
THEY ARE
AT IT...

YOU
SEE...

AS LONG
AS THEY
STAY
FRIENDS,
THEY WILL.

WHAT?

...THEY'LL STOP
PLAYING IF THEY
DON'T HAVE ANY
FRIENDS.





I DID IT, TAI-CHI!

I THINK I MEMO-RIZED ALL HUNDR...

WHOA!



I DID IT!



WOW, YOU REALLY DID IT!

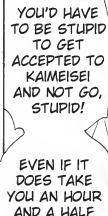


THAT'S AMAZING, MASHIMA-KUN!



"TO-YAMA NO KA-SUMI..."
(Valley mists, please do not rise)

"ASHI NO MA-ROYA NI..."
(Then into my humble noodle-thicket land)



YOU'D HAVE TO BE STUPID TO GET ACCEPTED TO KAIMEISEI AND NOT GO, STUPID!

EVEN IF IT DOES TAKE YOU AN HOUR AND A HALF TO GET TO SCHOOL!



WOW ...

BUT WASN'T TAICHI GOING TO GO TO SHUSAI CHOICE. UNIVERSITY AUXILIARY?
'Cause he can bike there.



MASHIMA-KUN GOT INTO KAIMEISEI MIDDLE SCHOOL!

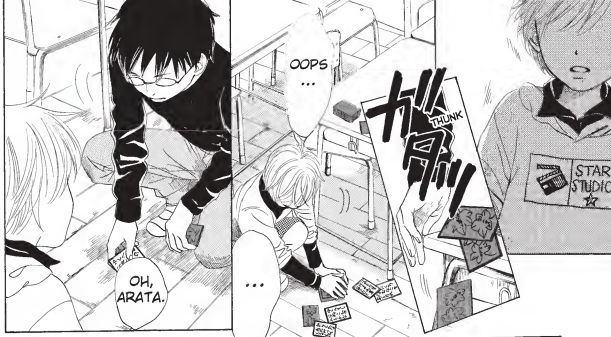
ISN'T THAT AMAZING? EVEN THOUGH HE'S BEEN SPENDING ALL THAT TIME PLAYING KARUTA WITH YOU, TOO!



WHAT HAPPENED?







LET'S PLAY
KARUTA
TOGETHER
FOREVER,
OKAY?





WE
CAN'T PLAY
KARUTA
T'GETHER
FOREVER.

ME TOO.

MY
GRAMPA
IN FUKUI
COLLAPSED.

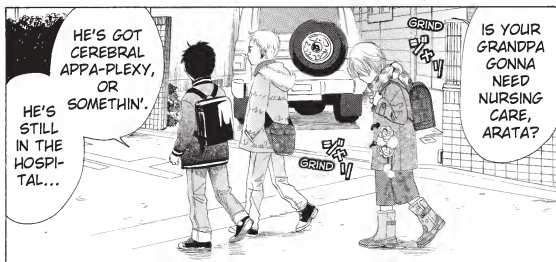
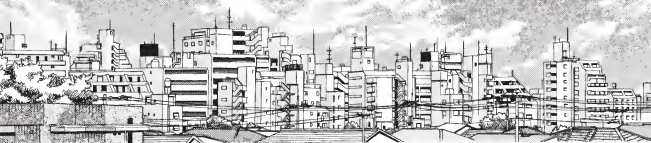
I NEEDTA
GO BACK
ONCE I
GRADUATE.

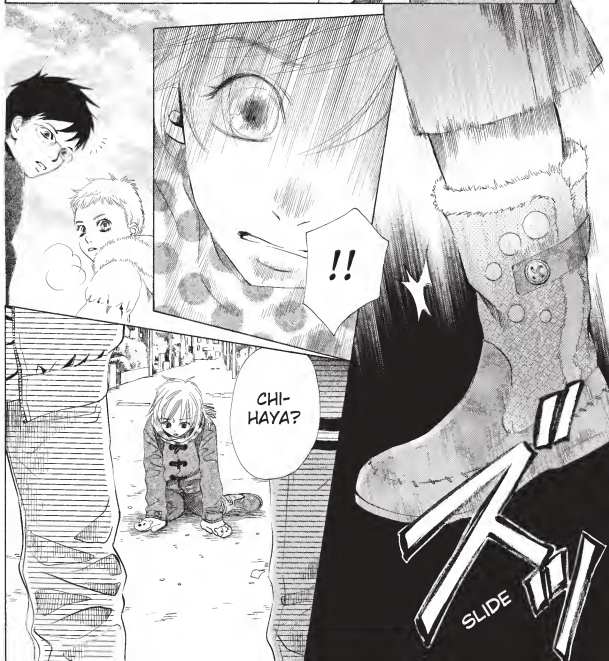
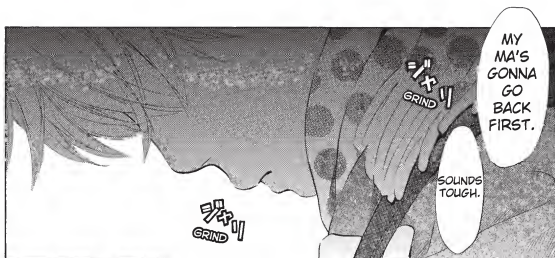
Chihayaburu

VERSE 5

Chihayaburu

WE CAN'T
PLAY KARUTA
T'GETHER
FOREVER.







ARATA
AND
TAICHI ARE
BOTH GOING
AWAY?



I'M
GOING
TO BE
ALONE
?



...ANY
TOURNAMENT.

...NOT
ENTER-
ING...

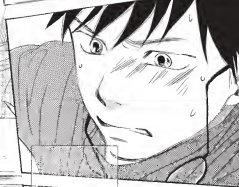
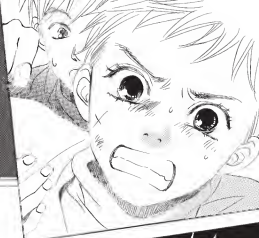
I'M...



CHI-
HAYA
....!

I
WON'T!!

...IF I'M
GOING
TO BE
DOING IT
ALONE?



WHY
WOULD
KARUTA
BE
ANY
FUN...





WHAT'S THE MATTER?

HM? CHI-HAYA-CHAN?



GA-THUNK

WE'RE ALREADY DONE SEEING PATIENTS FOR THE DAY...

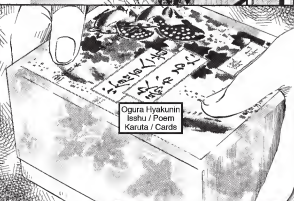
OH, I'M SORRY.



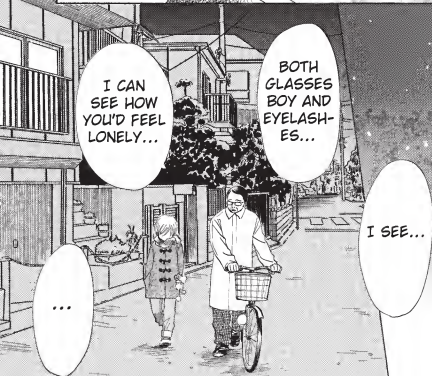
Harada Internal Medicine / Pediatrics

SENSEI, I...

...NEED TO RETURN THIS TO YOU.



Ogura Hyakunin Isshu / Poem Karuta / Cards



I CAN SEE HOW YOU'D FEEL LONELY...

BOTH GLASSES BOY AND EYELASHES...

I SEE...





...I'D ALWAYS
GET TO PLAY
KARUTA WITH
EVERYONE.

SENSEI.
I
THOUGHT...



BUT I'M
DONE
BEING
STUPID.

I WAS
JUST
BEING
STUPID
ON MY OWN.

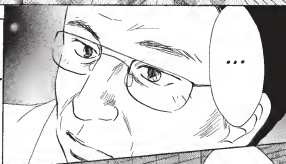
EVEN
THOUGH
ARATA
AND
TAICHI
NEVER
THOUGHT
THAT.



IT'S
IM-
PRES-
SIVE,

BUT...

IT'S NOT THE
KIND OF PLACE
YOU GET INTO
WHILE COMING
TO KARUTA
CLUB EVERY
WEEK.



...



EYE-
LASHES
IS PRETTY
IMPRES-
SIVE,
THOUGH!

KAIMEISEI IS
A FAMOUS
SCHOOL!
LOTS OF
PRIME
MINISTERS
HAVE COME
OUT OF
THERE!

GETTING
IN IS NO
EASY
FEAT.





YOU DIDN'T SEE IT?
OH, THAT'S TOO BAD!

HUH?
WH-WHERE?!

DID YOU SEE THAT, CHIHAYA-CHAN?!

!!

A SHOOTING STAR!

TAICHI

...



...GLASS-ES BOY'S GRANDFATHER IS AN AMAZING PERSON. HE'S AN ETERNAL MASTER.

YOU MIGHT NOT KNOW THIS, CHIHAYA, BUT...

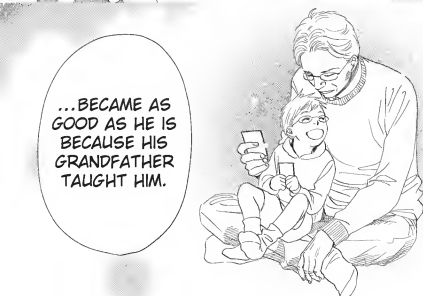
HUH?

A MASTER?



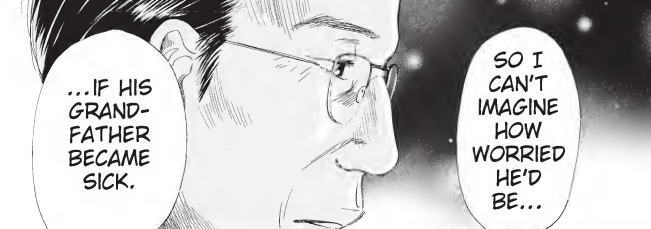
I'VE NEVER SEEN A SHOOTING STAR BEFORE!

ARGH!



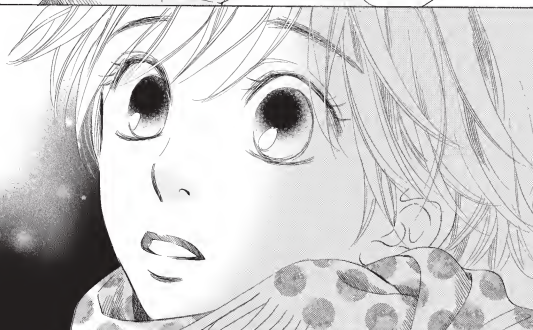
...BECAME AS GOOD AS HE IS BECAUSE HIS GRANDFATHER TAUGHT HIM.

I COULD TELL BY WATCHING HIM.
GLASS-ES...



...IF HIS
GRAND-
FATHER
BECAME
SICK.

SO I
CAN'T
IMAGINE
HOW
WORRIED
HE'D
BE...



JUST
KID-
DING!

WHAAA
?!



HUH
?! OH! A
SHOOTING
STAR!



AHAHA-
HAHA!



YOU'RE
SO MEAN,
SENSEI!
YOU BIG
MEANIE!!



IT'D BE
LONELY.



IF YOU
QUIT,

I'D FEEL
LONELY
TOO.



EVEN IF
THAT
MEANS I
CAN'T PLAY
KARUTA
ANYMORE.

OF COURSE
I'M GOING
TO
KAMEISEI.



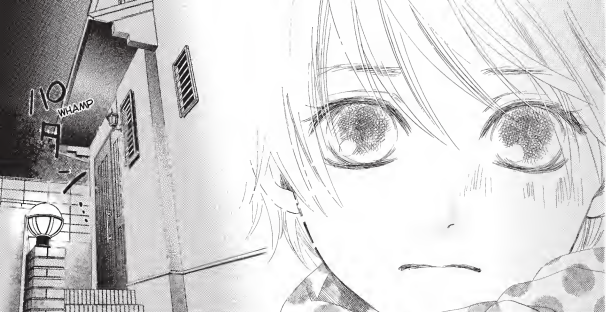
WE CAN'T
PLAY
KARUTA
T'GETHER
FOREVER.



I'D FEEL
LONELY
TOO.

IF YOU
QUIT,





CHITOSE.

YOU
SHOULDN'T
BOTHER
HER SO
MUCH!

no WHAMP

STOP
MESSING
AROUND
AT THAT
PLACE.

YOU
WEREN'T
AT THAT
KARUTA
CLUB OR
WHAT-
EVER
AGAIN,
WERE YOU?

ISN'T
IT LATE
FOR YOU
TO BE
GETTING
HOME,
CHIHAYA?
YOU'RE
JUST AN
ELEMEN-
TARY
SCHOOL-
ER.

WITH
SOME
BOY WHO
WAS
WEARING
GLASSES.

MASHIMA- CHI-
KUN HAYA.
WAS JUST
HERE.

OPEN IT,
CHIHAYA!

A
PRES-
ENT?

OOH,
WHAT
IS IT,
WHAT
IS IT?

THEY
SAID TO
GIVE THIS
TO YOU.

KSST
+



BFFFFT
!

A
HANDMADE LAME
T-SHIRT?!





CHATTER
#7

I SHOULD
TELL
YOU
RIGHT
NOW.

CHATTER
#7

受付 Reception

チー
ム
ちはや
る

YEAH,
I GET IT.
DIVISION'A
LABOR.

'Cause your
handwritin's no
good, Taichi.

CHATTER
#7

チー
ム
ちはや
る

IT'S NOT
LIKE WE
MADE UP
OR ANY-
THING.

I JUST
PAID FOR THE
T-SHIRTS,
AND YOU DREW
ON THEM.
THAT'S ALL.

CHATTER
#7

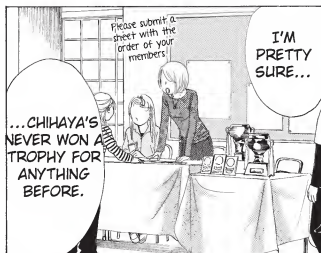
Oh, team
t-shirts! That's
unusual!

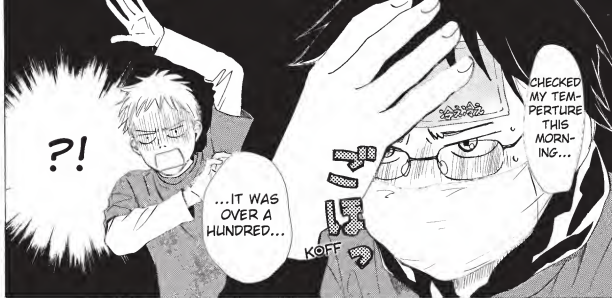
Wow!

CHI-
HAYA...

...
WHERE
COULD
SHE
BE...?







CHECKED MY TEMPERATURE THIS MORNING...

...IT WAS OVER A HUNDRED...

KOFF



WHAAT?!

I BEAT 'EM BY TWELVE THEN...

BUT I DUNNO 'BOUT NOW...

B-BUT NO ONE GOOD'S GOING TO SHOW UP AT A LITTLE CITY TOURNAMENT LIKE THIS!

I'M SURE YOU'LL BE FINE...

NAW ...



DON'T LET THEM GET PAIRED!

ALL TEAMS, PLEASE LINE UP.

IT'S TIME TO BEGIN ROUND ONE.

WE CAN'T HAVE ARATA LOSING A MATCH OUT OF NOWHERE!



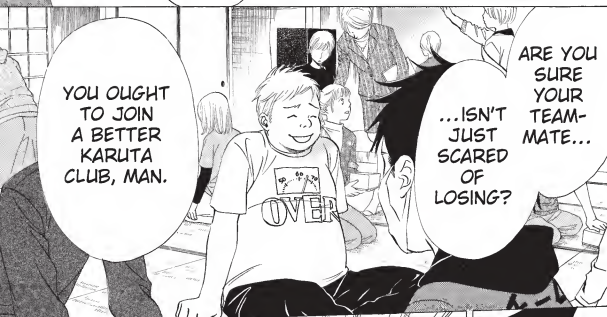
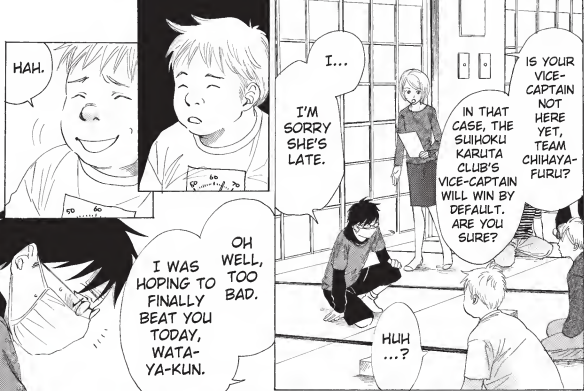
PLEASE LET HIM BE UP AGAINST CHIHAYA AND WIN BY DEFAULT!



THAT ROUND GUY O'ER THERE FROM SUIHOKU KARUTA CLUB, WHO WE'RE FACIN' FIRST...

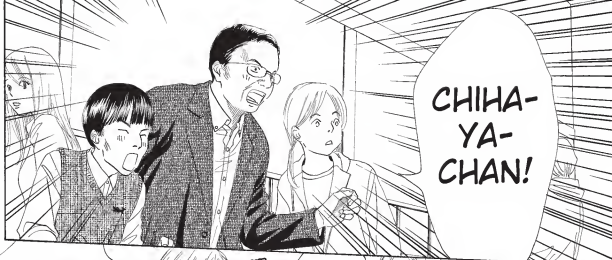
...HE WAS RUNNER-UP AT THE NATIONAL TOURNEY.

Arata carries three towels for his sweat









CHIHAYA-
YA-
CHAN!

I WAS
STUCK AT
A TRAIN
CROSSING
FOR
TWENTY
MINUTES!

PANT

PANT

SU-
PER
LATE
!!

Y-
YOU'RE
LATE,
CHIHAYA
!

KOFF

おはよう
おはよう
GR-KOFF

BOTH OF YOU
LEAVING ME TO
BE ALL ON MY
OWN LIKE THIS.

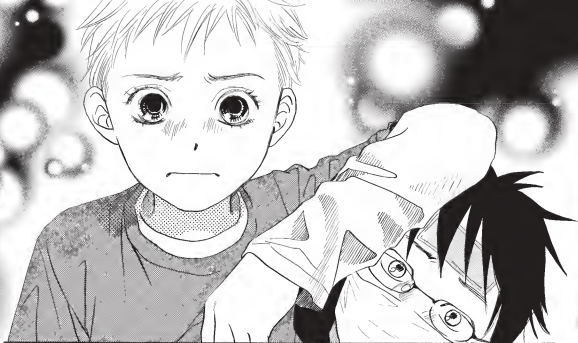
う
GAH

AND I'M
MAD
AT YOU
TOO!

BUT...

WHO'S
FEELING
THIS
LONELY,
RIGHT?

IT'S
NOT
JUST
ME



ACK!

I'M
SORRY.



LINE UP PLEASE
YOUR CARDS,
BE QUIET.
QUICKLY!



BUT
I'M GOING
TO WIN.

YOU
HAVE
FIFTEEN
MINUTES
OF
MEMORI-
ZATION
TIME.

I'VE
BEEN
PLAYING
SINCE
FIRST
GRADE.

DON'T
GET
CAR-
RIED
AWAY.



SMUSH
SMUSH

HEY.
DO YOU
THINK YOU
CAN BEAT
ME?

HOW
MANY
YEARS
HAVE
YOU
PLAYED
KARU-
TA?



THIS IS
MY
FIRST
MATCH,
TOO.

WOW!

TWO
MONTHS.



SHE DOESN'T KNOW WHERE EVERYTHING'S PLACED YET.

SHE DOESN'T HAVE HER OWN GO-TO SPOTS EITHER.

THE SAME.

SHE CAN'T GET A SINGLE ONE DURING THE FIRST HALF.

HOW DOES IT FEEL WHEN YOU PLAY AGAINST CHIHAYA-CHAN?

EVEN YOU, SENSEI ?!

LEER-O-KUN.

ギア
AAACK

SHE HASN'T GOTTEN A SINGLE ONE!

AGH, AYASE-SAN IS DOOMED!

I THINK...

...THAT'S WHAT I THOUGHT.

Best Friends



Good Friends



Friends

I'M STILL BETTER FRIENDS WITH SOME OF YOU THAN OTHERS.

...I'M SORRY.

I KNOW THEM NOW.

I'M FRIENDS WITH ALL OF THEM.

BUT

HE HAS TEN MORE THAN ME NOW.

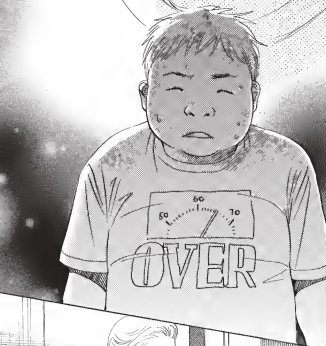
HAAAAHHH

...ONCE THERE ARE ABOUT FORTY LEFT, SHE STARTS TO KNOW WHERE THEY ARE?



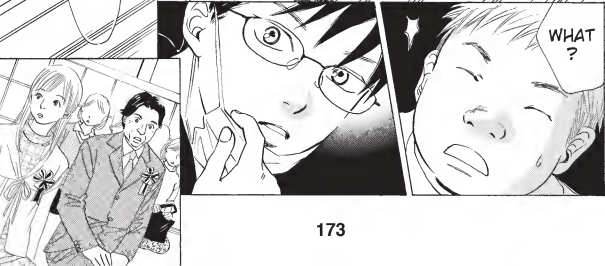
YOU'RE
ALL
TALK!

I KNEW IT.
YOU'RE
ONLY HERE
AS A
THROWAWAY
AGAINST
ME—



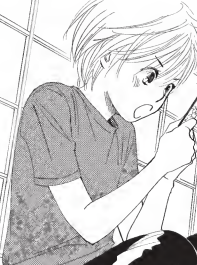
BUT ALL
OF THE
ONES
AROUND
HERE...

...ARE
LIKE MY
BEST
FRIENDS
NOW.





AGH!
THIS
AGAIN!



ALRIGHT!



THAT'S
ONE!



...SHE
TAKES
THE
CARD
AFTER
THE
FIRST!

YOU DON'T
KNOW IF IT'S
GOING TO BE
"SHI-RA-TSU-YU"
OR "SHI-NO-BU"
UNTIL THE SECOND
CHARACTER,
BUT...

AYASE-SAN
ALWAYS
GUESSES
ON CARDS
LIKE THAT!

SEN-
SEI!

*I keep telling her
she shouldn't!*



...

IT ISN'T
THAT SHE'S
GUESSING.

IS SHE NOT
AFRAID OF
GETTING
THE WRONG
ONE?

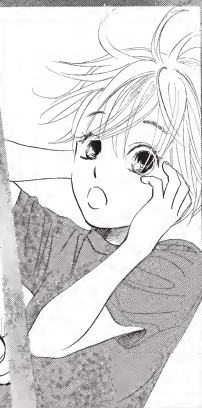
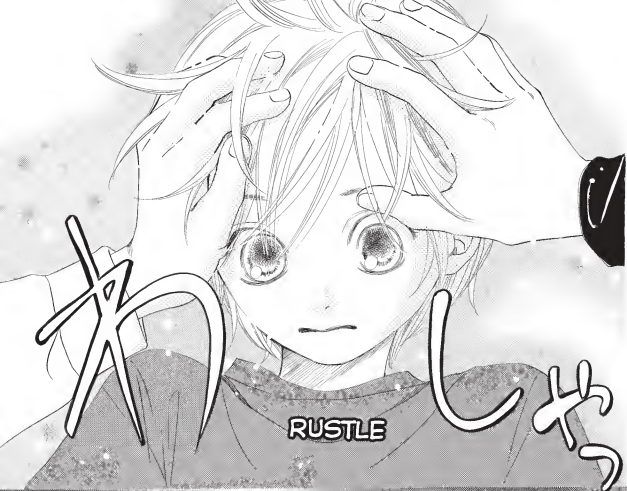
THAT
GIRL...



I'M
GOING
TO
WIN.

SHE
HEARS IT.
SHE'S JUST
FAST.

...IS
HEARING
WHAT'S
BEING
SAID
AFTER
THE
"SHI."



WE'RE
GOING TO
WIN.

チー
ちはや

THE
THREE
OF US
TOGETH-
ER.

Continued in Volume 2

Chihayafuru

Chihaya Ayase (12)

- Large, dark eyes.
- Boyish body.
- Never worn a skirt.
- Sincere. Easily trusted by others. Easily lied to.
- Recent surprises:
Her older sister suddenly buying a cell phone. Not only that, she won't tell her what the number is.



- Gets overly focused on things, to the point of staring at the holes on ants' nests for four hours.

• Blood type: B

- Favorite classes:
Science, social studies, P.E., music.





Arata Wataya (12)



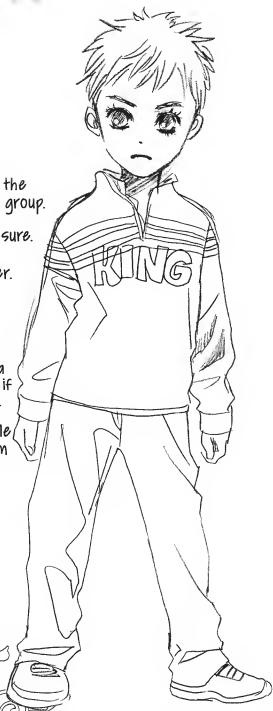
- Cool, thin eyes.
Thin eyebrows and eyelashes.
- Genetically bad eyesight. He's worn glasses since he was three.
- Tends not to smile much.
Doesn't show his emotions unless he's relaxed.
- Currently wants: An "Ariake" automatic card-reading machine.
- Plays karuta even in his dreams.
His parents are sometimes sleep-deprived because of his sudden movements during the night.
- Likes math, calligraphy, and science class.
- Blood type: O
- Scared of big dogs.

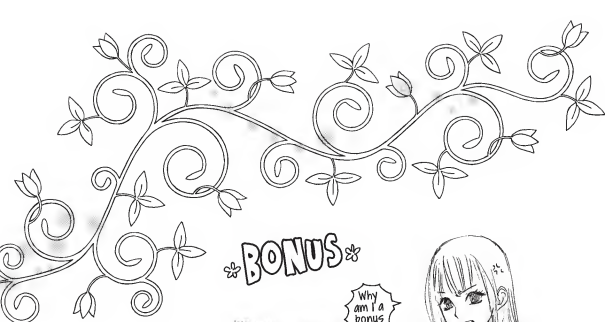




Taichi Mashima (12)

- Thick, camel-like eyebrows. Has the most visible eyelid folds of the group.
- Folds easily to stress and pressure.
- Both talented and a hard worker.
- Has curly hair that can be hard to get under control.
- His grandfather is the head of a general hospital. His father is also a doctor, and so he vaguely wonders if he's going to become a doctor too.
- Recent surprises: When his little sister (five years old) asked him if he's a narcissist.
- Does well in every subject.
- Blood type: A



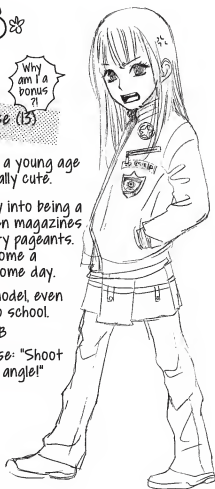


BONUS

Why
am I a
bonus
?!

Chitose Ayase (15)

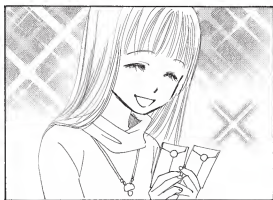
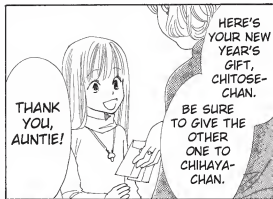
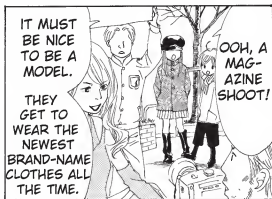
- Noticed from a young age that she's really cute.
- Finds her way into being a model for teen magazines through beauty pageants. Wants to become a supermodel some day.
- Walks like a model, even on her way to school.
- Blood type: AB
- Favorite phrase: "Shoot me from this angle!"



**NEXT PAGE:
4-PANEL COMICS
OUT OF NOWHERE!**

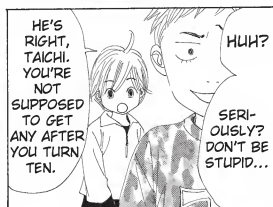
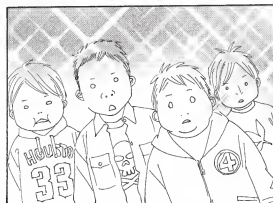


NEW YEAR'S GIFT: 2 NEW YEAR'S GIFT: 1

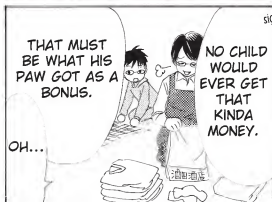
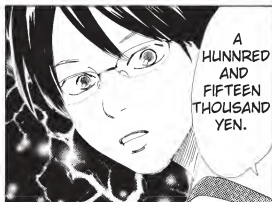
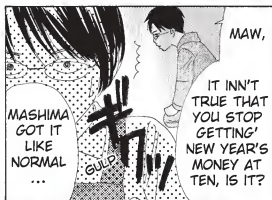
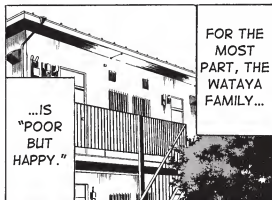


Chihaya's clothes are all hand-me-downs.

NEW YEAR'S GIFT: 4 NEW YEAR'S GIFT: 3



NEW YEAR'S GIFT: 6 NEW YEAR'S GIFT: 5



I'll try to keep it up
in volume 2!



Chihayafuru 1

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